

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Low-fare HK airline sets Saipan flights

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Hong Kong Express will start offering direct flights from Hong Kong to Saipan and vice versa six times a week starting on Jan. 17, 2017.

Starting at just HK\$588 (\$75.77), introductory one-way fares have been on sale since last Oct. 10, with travel dates valid from Jan. 17, 2017, to Mar. 25, 2017.

Flights from Saipan to Hong Kong are offered every Monday, Thursday, and

Saturday, departing from the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport at 1:40am and are scheduled to arrive in Hong Kong at 5am.

Flights from Hong Kong

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IF OBAMACARE WERE REPEALED

‘CNMI would take a hit if...’

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

President-elect Donald Trump has openly expressed his desire to repeal President Barack Obama's signature healthcare program, the Affordable Care Act, usually disparaged by Republicans as Obamacare. However, Helen Sablan, the CNMI director for the State

Medicaid Agency, said the Commonwealth would be taking a hit if that happens.

Sablan did state that it is still too early to speculate if it will actually happen but if repealed, the lack of ACA would deny many residents access to proper healthcare benefits due to the loss of funds.

‘It's going to be a major
See CNMI on Page 4



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Children gather around to peek at one of the booths during the unveiling of the Lady Diann Foundation's Christmas Village yesterday evening in Susupe.

MICHAEL T SANTOS

Minor sexually abused since 13 gives birth

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A minor gave birth to a premature baby at the Commonwealth Health Center last Tuesday after she was allegedly sexually abused by a 39-year-old man since

she was 13.

Ruben Atalig Corpuz Jr. was arrested last week for sexual abuse of a minor, assault and battery, and disturbing the

peace.

Corpuz allegedly confessed that he did have sex with the

minor, who lives in Kagman 3.

The police report did not mention how old the girl is now.

Police said the victim's mother apparently only discovered the sexual abuse after the victim was taken to the hospital for stomachache last week. While there, she was found to be eight months preg-

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Vietnam War vet Chargualaf dies

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veterans of Foreign Wars senior vice commander Mac Chargualaf passed away early Sunday morning due to complications from liver cancer. He was

an ardent supporter of war veterans and pushed their issues, having served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War.

Chargualaf is the VFW Post 3457 senior commander. He has been sick for quite awhile and the cancer had

already metastasized. Around midnight, his liver shut down, soon followed by his other organs. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Chargualaf, known as Uncle Mac in the community, was the safety officer of the Saipan Mayor's Office. He joined the office a few months after Da-

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Chargualaf

INSIDE



LOCAL

The new leader of the Catholic church in Guam attempts to heal this U.S. territory.

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President-elect Donald Trump condemns a growing push to force recounts.

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ASIA

A multimillion-dollar trove of seized art is the subject of a bitter legal fight.

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Local

OAG insists on handling case; judge orders govt to explain

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ordered a prosecutor to explain why the Office of the At-

torney General ignores a court order directing the OAG to appoint a special prosecutor to handle Chief Solicitor James M. Zarones' traffic case.

In an order last week after a status conference, Camacho

asked the prosecutor to explain what legal authority the OAG relies on to disobey or ignore Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja's written order that directed the OAG to appoint a special prosecutor no later

than Nov. 7, 2016, to handle Zarones traffic case.

Naraja issued the order last Nov. 3.

Camacho said the OAG has not appointed a special prosecutor as of Nov. 23.

At the Nov. 3 hearing, the OAG moved to recuse the OAG from prosecuting the matter because Zarones is an employee of the OAG. This prompted Naraja to issue the order for the appointment of a

special prosecutor.

At the Nov. 23 status conference, assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. appeared for the government. Zarones was off-island

See OAG on Page 4



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.



Hell of the Marianas International Exposure

Following months of preparation and promotion, the **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** is gearing up for the **10th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle** on Saturday, December 3, 2016, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event will be spearheaded by the **Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation**.

As part of its international promotions, last month the MVA met with Chinese Cycling Association and the organizing committee of the Tour of Hainan 2016, as well as Hainan media and travel agencies. As a result five cycling clubs, including GIANT, the #1 global bicycle manufacturer, expressed interest in participating the event and Chinese media are expected to cover the event in local

media outlets. Promotions in Korea, Japan, Russian, and other off-shore markets have also generated exposure of the event which regularly attracts international participants to tour the perimeter and interior of picturesque Saipan.

Individual and team entries are welcomed. Download an entry form and course map from the online Northern Mariana Islands Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information, contact Race Director Vince Seman at nmicycling@gmail.com or the MVA at 1.670.664.3200/01 or mva@mymarianas.com.



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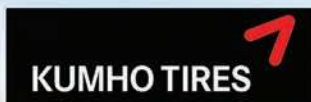
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Brothers allegedly stole, sold uncle's gun

Two brothers allegedly stole a 410 shotgun from their uncle in Kagman 3 and sold it for \$120 and \$60 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Benedicto Nicky Taisakan, 25, was arrested on Wednesday in Kagman 3 on charges of theft and illegal possession of a firearm. His brother, Benwachi N. Taisakan, 29, was apprehended that same day in Koblerville on charges of receiving stolen property and illegal possession of a firearm.

Ramon R. Agulto, 41, was arrested in Susupe on Wednesday on charges of receiving stolen property and illegal possession of a firearm.

Each of the three defendants face a \$50,000 cash bail. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 5 at 9am.

The court will name a private counsel for the Taisakan brothers while assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Agulto.

Police said that Juan F. Rebuénog came to the Department of Public Safety last Nov. 12 and filed a complaint

that his registered 410 shotgun had been stolen from his closet in his bedroom. According to Rebuénog, he noticed that his shotgun was missing when he opened his closet to get dressed last Nov. 1. Rebuénog asked his wife and children about the gun, but they knew nothing about it.

Last Nov. 13, two police detectives met the Rebuénog couple, who disclosed that their nephew, Benedicto Taisakan, took the gun from the closet and gave it to his brother, Benwachi Taisakan.

Benedicto Taisakan allegedly asked his brother to sell the gun because he needed money.

Benedicto Taisakan confessed that he stole the shotgun and two boxes of ammunition from Rebuénog's closet and that Benwachi Taisakan sold it to Agulto.

Benwachi Taisakan also confessed to police that he sold the gun to Agulto for \$120, along with \$60 worth of "ice."

The Taisakan brothers wanted to buy back the gun, but Agulto allegedly refused,

saying that somebody had stolen it.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force members tried to conduct a controlled buy-bust operation to get the gun back last Nov. 18 but Agulto allegedly told Benwachi Taisakan that he's the one who stole the gun so he has to "carry his own cross." (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Man has 12 bench warrants for 12 traffic cases

A man was arrested last week on 12 bench warrants and not appearing in court for his 12 traffic cases that range from driving while under the influence of alcohol to seatbelt violations.

At a hearing on Friday at 1:30pm, Zhong Zhao appeared with court-appointed counsel, assistant public defender Tillman Clark.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$23,850 cash

bail—equivalent to the total amount of bail for the 12 bench warrants.

Camacho set the hearing for 3:30pm that same day for the court to locate a Chinese translator for Zhao.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

According to court records, Zhao's traffic cases go back to 2014 up to the present. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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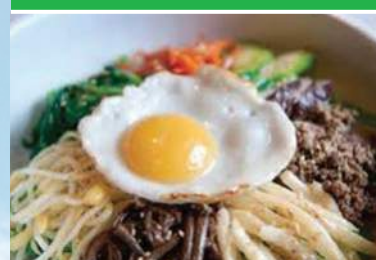
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Alternative for marijuana measure sought

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) is looking at other ways of legalizing marijuana use in the CNMI after Senate Bill 19-106, which he introduced, encountered unfore-

seen circumstances. He has pre-filed the bill and is pushing for marijuana's personal use and decriminalization in the CNMI.

The Republican lawmaker's original plan was to go through the entire process at the Legislature: introduce

the bill, hold public hearings, write a committee report, pass it at the House of Representatives, and if passed by the Senate without amendments, straight to the governor's desk for signing into law.

"We thought this would be quicker but apparently

there were a lot of things that came up and stalled the process. But I also just told Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) to file the bill, meaning to table it," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*.

Santos is chair of the Senate Committee on Health and

Welfare. Igisomar was elected to a full four-year term early this month.

Igisomar said he had discussions with proponents of other ways of pushing for the legalization of personal use and decriminalization of marijuana in the Commonwealth—one of which is through a signature drive.

"There are two ways to really do it, one is to do a signature campaign and have the people sign the petition and present it to the attorney general to put it on the ballot. That's an alternative and we didn't do it the last time," he said.

"It is either we do it again at the Legislature or we just do the signature drive. It might be better for the proponents to put it that way. The only thing that they ask is to be favorable in any legislative support."

Igisomar thinks there won't be enough time for his bill to go through the entire process again at the Legislature. He

said that he and proponents of his marijuana bill also had several dialogues with pro-legalization organizations in the U.S. where they would like to add some amendments.

"Like reduce some of the items like penalties and some of the fees where some of them are very low. There are some provisions on the bill that were I think too lenient. I told the proponents that they must work on this bill and give me a document that is better than the last."

The states of California and Massachusetts voted to legalize recreational use of marijuana while Florida expanded its legal access to the herb last election.

Marijuana allegedly treats glaucoma, epilepsy, chronic pain, muscle spasms, and reduce nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy, and improve the appetite of people with HIV/AIDS. The use of cannabis is legal in Washington D.C., Guam and more than 20 other U.S. states.

CNMI

From Page 1

impact because covering more people, getting additional funds, and then helping more people with existing health issues are going to be taken away," said Sablan.

Commonly called the Affordable Care Act, the program is officially called the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. According to online sources, it was intended to increase health insurance, lower the uninsured rate, and reduce the costs of healthcare.

Thanks to ACA, the CNMI has received funding amounting to \$100 million from July 1, 2011, right up to Sept. 30, 2019. ACA has been constantly applied for since the last fiscal year. Statistics for fiscal year 2015-2016 was not readily available due to technical difficulties at the time of the interview, but for fiscal year 2014-2015 alone, the CNMI Medicaid Office approved 14,053 applicants, 12 for the Northern Islands, 777 for Rota, 13,521 for Saipan, and

775 for Tinian—and many of them receive treatment thanks to ACA funding.

"We open up to the people that are U.S. citizens or residents that...meet our income and resource [requirements] using Supplementary Security Income criteria since we are an SSI state," said Sablan.

The SSI is a U.S. government program that provides allowances to people of low incomes that are aged 65 or older, blind, or disabled.

Under ACA, the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid were made to cover children to young adults up to age 26.

"There are just so many things that are under Obamacare that really helped us," said Sablan.

"It's premature to say now because of we don't know what President-elect Trump is going to do, whether revamping the whole thing [or just parts of it]. We just have to wait and see," she added.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna shares the same view, thinking that it is still too early in the

Trump presidency to speculate whether ACA would be repealed or even amended.

"At this time, we really have more questions than answers right now, so I join other health leaders in the 50 states and five territories in monitoring the movement of how the changes, if any, would affect our health system," said Muna.

If ACA were to be repealed, Muna hopes that the new President would consider the possible impacts on U.S. territories.

"We are hopeful that the new administration will recognize the disparity in Medicaid funds for the CNMI and the territories and ensure funds will be available for eligible indigent care," said Muna.

According to Muna, ACA was able to provide funding to supply the lone hospital service provider through reimbursements made by CNMI Medicaid.

"ACA has provisions that provide additional funding to Medicaid that ensures the Commonwealth Health Center gets reimbursed \$1 million of its monthly cost while

ensuring services are paid to the private providers and the off-island providers. The CNMI, like other territories, receive capped Medicaid funding. This additional funding beyond the cap has helped CHC in its operations and in improving hospital services," clarified Muna.

"Also, over the years, ACA opened new funding opportunities to CHCC, such as expansion of services at our sole community health center in Kagman and innovative models to provide affordable and quality health care. We are hopeful that the grant funding received for these initiatives will not end despite having some linkage to the ACA," added Muna, referring to Kagman Community Health Center's benefits received by ACA.

Muna said CHCC would be on the alert for the possibility of the amendment or abolition of ACA.

"We will continue to monitor the movement of the existing policies and regulations that affect CHCC and the CNMI," she said.

this autumn," he added.

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somebody like him. He is the reason why I joined the VFW Post. He was a former post commander," said Ruszala, who added that Chargualaf would be buried at the Veterans Cemetery.

"I was lucky to have known him. His dedication to our post and the community will not be forgotten. He is very passionate about veterans' issues and worked for the mayor as the person in charge of upkeep at the Veterans Cemetery. His final resting place will be with his fellow veterans."

program allows guests of HK Express round-trip flights to visit both Guam and the CNMI, using either a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or a British National Overseas, a completed Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Information form (I-736), and a completed Arrival/Departure Record (I-94).

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"It's nothing but blue skies ahead for HK Express—we have a few surprises in store

We join his family at this hour of need and we hope for them to stay strong. All the memories that he spent with his wife and family will live forever," said Hofschneider.

VFW Post 3457 junior commander Brad Ruszala said their Post commander Mike O'Kelly was with the family when Chargualaf died early Sunday morning. He added that the CNMI lost a dedicated, friendly, and honest man.

"We are deeply saddened to lose a dear friend and comrade. You can't replace

LOW-FARE

From Page 1

to Saipan are offered every Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, departing Hong Kong at 9:30pm and arriving on Saipan at 4:25am of the following day.

HK Express is a participant of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which does not require visas for many of HK Express guests that are approved by U.S. Customs & Border Protection. The airline-specific

special treatment.

The judge said that, in Glass' own words, he talked "with the powers that be, the Attorney General [Edward] Manibusan himself" and that the OAG will be prosecuting Zarones in this case.

Zarones' traffic case involves a violation of 9 CMC 5352(a)—failure to yield.

Camacho said the citation, however, does indicate an alleged incident that may or may not involve potential injuries and/or damage to a third party, as well as possible civil liabilities and insurance coverage may or may not be affected depending on the outcome of the traffic case.

According to court documents, Zarones was driving a blue Toyota Rav 4 along Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Laulau when the accident happened in the afternoon last Oct. 5. It was Police Officer J. Mendiola who issued the traffic citation for failure to yield to right of way. The citation indicated the word "sideswipe," which means that Zarones' vehicle hit another car. Zarones pleaded not guilty. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

VIETNAM

From Page 1

vid M. Apatang, also a Vietnam War veteran, was sworn in as the mayor of Saipan.

SMO special assistant Henry Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview that they had already informed Apatang, who was really saddened by Chargualaf's passing. "The mayor already got the message. He asked us to visit the family and provide whatever assistance they need."

Guam archbishop wants to help heal US territory

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The new leader of the Catholic church in Guam will meet with his brother priests as his first order of business on Monday as he attempts to heal this U.S. territory rocked by allegations of sexual abuse at the hands of clergy, even the current archbishop.

"I have been praying for those who have brought forward the allegations, who brought forward their own experience. I have great compassion for that," Archbishop Michael Byrnes, 58, of Detroit told The Associated Press in

a phone interview. "I've been praying for them."

Byrnes has been sent by the Vatican to replace current Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron on an administrative basis. Apuron, 71, has been Guam's highest Catholic leader for 30 years but faces a church trial over multiple allegations of sex abuse of altar boys in the 1970s. He denies the charges, and has not been criminally charged.

Byrnes said he had a conversation with Apuron and knows he is somewhere in the United States. "The tribunal

investigation and trial of the archbishop has already begun," Byrnes said.

Byrnes will have the right to succeed Apuron if he resigns, retires or is removed. Byrnes was auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit before Pope Francis appointed him to the Guam post.

While Apuron remains the archbishop in title, Byrnes said he has already been exercising pastoral responsibility for the archdiocese, and that he will continue to include Apuron in his Eucharistic prayers.

"Irrespective of guilt or

innocence, we should always pray for each other, especially in difficult times," Byrnes said.

Several civil lawsuits have been filed against the church after the governor this year signed a bill lifting the statute of limitations to sue alleged abusers and institutions that supported them.

Byrnes wants to reach out to as many parishioners as possible in heavily Catholic Guam, located about 3,700 miles southwest of Honolulu. About 80 percent of the western Pacific island's 160,000

residents are Catholic.

"I want to hear from the people of God on the island, what are their concerns, what are their hopes. In a time when there has been a kind of polarization because of the archbishop, then it becomes difficult for people because you have to choose," he said.

"It's not like a panacea or a quick fix but unless we bring all this to Jesus then we're going to just be left to ourselves," he said.

It will be a steep learning curve all around for Byrnes. He had never met anyone

from Guam before being named to lead the Catholic church here, and the only thing he knew about the place was gleaned from World War II history books.

Byrnes will travel 15 time zones from Detroit to arrive on Guam on Monday, when he will participate in a day of recollection with Guam's clergy.

Two liturgical celebrations are planned on Wednesday, including when he takes his oath of fidelity. Later that day, he will join parishioners as they begin nine days of masses honoring Guam's patron saint, Santa Marian Kamalen, also known as Our Lady of Camarin.



Byrnes



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Ex-track star turned actress



Aspiring actress Yvonne Bennett has been cast in the upcoming film *Love, Kennedy*, directed by Tom C. Christensen.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **MICHAEL T SANTOS**
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Saipan track athlete Yvonne Bennett is setting her sights on becoming a leading actress, landing her first major supporting role in the upcoming film *Love, Kennedy*, directed by Tom C. Christensen.

The film is based on a true story about a girl named Kennedy who is diagnosed with a terminal illness. Bennett plays the role of Alexis “Lexi” Velasquez, a fellow cheerleader who changes Kennedy’s life for the better.

Yvonne’s father, Ambrose Bennett, said, “I am really lost for words but I did want to share this...especially our

youth who need to know [that] there is no limit to what they can do, coming from the CNMI.”


“We are hopeful that her supporters in the CNMI will take the time to look at the trailer. Hopefully they will see the film and say a prayer for our daughter’s continued success. My wife and I are so proud of her and we are trying to work with Yvonne and the film director to have a special showing here in the CNMI when it is released in June of next year,” Ambrose Bennett said.

Bennett paid her way through acting school while working full time as the manager of the Abercrombie &


Fitch store in Salt Lake City. She had also started acting in the meantime, getting roles as extras.

Bennett herself said: “I am so grateful for the unconditional support my parents have given me. It means the world to me that they both support me with chasing my dream to become an actress. If I didn’t have their support it would be almost impossible for me to pursue it. It seriously is a tough business to get into. With that said, I am gaining a tough skin and becoming a better Yvonne. So thank you, mom and dad, so much.”

Bennett was also a budding pageant competitor before she turned to acting.



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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Division of Historic Preservation, under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, hereby give notice that the Special Historic Preservation Review Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., over at the Office on Aging Center's Conference Room, located across the Garapan Central Park.

Interested individuals are invited to attend.

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes from November 3, 2016 Board Meeting
- PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- OLD BUSINESS**
 - Saipan Adventure Tours LLC Zip Line Project, Marpi Area, Saipan
- NEW BUSINESS**
- OTHER MATTERS**
- ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ **Pedro A. Duenas**
Chairman, CNMI HPO Review Board



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION FOR BID

ITB17-GOV-041 Metal Roof Repair at the Department of Corrections FEMA DR-4235-MP PA PW 80

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the metal roof repair project at the Department of Corrections facility in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available November 21, 2016 at the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on December 07, 2016 at 9:00am ChST at the Department of Corrections in Susupe, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing on or before December 12, 2016 to the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, by email to: patrickguerrero.pa@gmail.com, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB17-GOV-041 Metal Roof Repair at the Department of Corrections**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **9:00 a.m. ChST December 21, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST December 21, 2016 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 21, 2016 and the bid documents must be received no later than December 30, 2016. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 9:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 9:00 a.m. ChST December 21, 2016.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:


- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.


All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537



ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MICRONESIA MARIANAS DISTRIBUTING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	: CIVIL ACTION : NO. 92-0250 : And consolidated cases : (C.A. Nos. 93-0808, : 00-0496, 01-0203, : 01-0515, and 01-0560; : and S.C. Nos. 99-1074, : 00-0012, 00-0053, : and 00-0108)
---	---

-v-
**FREDDY U.
HOFSCHEIDER, JR.,
Defendant.**

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot no. 057 T 130, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 057 T 03 dated December 22, 1989, Commonwealth Record's File no. 90-1771, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 16, 2016. At the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 8th day of November, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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FARE CONDITIONS: Selling Period: November 1 to 30, 2016. Travel Period: November 1 to December 10, 2016 and January 1 to March 15, 2017. Subject to seat availability. Fare is subject to change due to currency conversion rate. Fare is not guaranteed until final purchase. All-in economy roundtrip fare is quoted per person. Fare includes taxes and fees, exclusive of Philippine travel tax of PHP1,620 and ticketing service charge. Taxes are approximate. Breakdown of taxes and fees can be viewed at philippineairlines.com. Fare is valid for a minimum stay of 2 days and a maximum stay of 21 days. Fare is non-refundable for totally unused and partially used tickets. Change fee is USD100 per transaction. No-show fee is USD75. Infant fare for infant without a seat under 2 years is 10% of adult fare. Child's fare is 75% of adult fare. 50% Mabuhay Miles credit. Quoted fare is rounded off to the nearest whole number. Other travel conditions apply. **BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:** Fare is inclusive of 7-kg hand carry baggage. Free check-in baggage allowance is 2 pieces at 50 lbs (23 kgs) per piece. There may be additional fees for your checked baggage in excess of your free baggage allowance.

Insurance group awards scholarships to NMC students

As part of its ongoing community service efforts to promote higher education among CNMI residents and to provide students with financial assistance as they pursue their educational goals, the Northern Marianas Insurance Association recently awarded two Northern Marianas College students with \$500 scholarship awards.

"We are extremely thankful for the Northern Marianas Insurance Association's scholarship awards to our very de-

serving students," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The organization's contribution underscores the members' commitment to building workforce capacity."

The students who were selected to receive the NMIA scholarship are Rachel Reyes and Maria Castro, who had undergone a highly competitive application process that included an essay and panel interview.

"Both Rachel and Maria are excellent students and demon-

strated qualities that embodied educational and character ideals regarded highly by the NMIA," said Shirley Sablan, NMIA president. Sablan also works as executive vice president and general manager of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, which is a member of NMIA.

"In addition to tuition, books, fees, there are many other expenses like rent and gas that students have to pay. The scholarship from the NMIA really helps us in our journey to our college de-

grees," said Reyes.

"Being awarded this scholarship from NMIA allows me to focus more on my studies," said Castro.

The Northern Marianas Insurance Association is an association of insurance companies whose purpose is to protect the rights of its members for the benefit of the consumer through education, information, networking and active participation in the political environment and community service. As part of its

expanded purposes, the organization also carries out not-for-profit activities that contribute to the betterment of the CNMI socially, economically, politically and culturally consistent with the laws of CNMI and Bylaws.

The NMIA's members include Suzi Perez, director, Takagi Insurance/AIOI Insurance; Cathy Tenorio, vice president, Moylan's/Dongbu Insurance and First Net Insurance; Pete Schilling, director, Associated Insurance Underwriters/Pacific Indemnity Insurance Company, Inc.; Gol

Corpuz, treasurer, Century Insurance Company Ltd.; Eli Buenaventura, secretary, Calvo's Insurance/AIG; and Shirley Sablan, president, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters/Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Ltd.

"The NMIA college educational scholarship has been long time coming," Sablan added. "As a part of our organization's core focus on community partnerships and goodwill efforts, we have placed education and programs that support students who aspire to advance through higher education at the top of our list." (PR)



Members of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association, composed of insurance companies in the CNMI, recently presented scholarship awards to Northern Marianas College students Rachel Reyes and Maria Castro, front row, second and third from left, respectively. Also in photo are NMC representatives.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USCIS immigration info sessions on Thursday

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will hold three public immigration information sessions Thursday afternoon and evening. Representatives of community-based organizations and legal professionals are invited to the first session; members of the public are invited to the others. USCIS personnel will be on hand to discuss and answer questions about the legal immigration process, including naturalization.

■ 3pm-4pm: Meeting for community-based organiza-

tions and legal professionals at the USCIS Application Support Center, the TSL Plaza Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

■ 4:30pm-6pm: Immigration 101 and Naturalization workshop at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

■ 6:30pm-7:30p: Immigration 101 and Naturalization workshop for the Saipan Chinese Association, Room 2F, Garapan, Saipan.

CW visas and H-2B visas will not be discussed at these meetings. (USCIS)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-17-011

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-011 -Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicle and Heavy Equipment" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 5, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 18, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Administrator via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-012

ROTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Rota Water Supply Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the demolition of existing building structure, fence, pipes, valves, including appurtenances, installation of new 6-inch, 8-inch, & 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, construction of a new well building, chlorination building, booster pump building, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 1st 2017.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The Bid Documents may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one Bid Documents package set. The Bid Documents consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **December 7, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A Site Visit of the CUC Rota Water facilities will be scheduled by CUC Rota thereafter. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) Original and Five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a **sealed envelope** marked "CUC-IFB-17-012 -Rota Water Supply Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 22, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Travis Spaeth, CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

'Heightened inter-agency work needed'

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission aims to emulate other countries that have strong inter-agency cooperation to help them regulate the gaming industry on Saipan. Enforcement agencies in countries like Australia, Macau, Singapore, and others that have casinos maintain a close collaboration.

"We want to focus more on inter-agency cooperation. There are some jurisdictions in other countries that have an existing government structure. They actually participate in casino regulatory process, whether you are in Singapore, Macau, or Australia," said CCC executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero. "There are other agencies that are involved in the vetting process, whether it is a tax issue or a [Financial Crimes Enforcement Network] issue. There are other agencies that work with the regulators to assure that the country's casino-related laws are being implemented."

Locally, Deleon Guerrero said they would be working with enforcement agencies like the Department of Public Safety, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Department of Commerce's Alcohol Beverage & Tobacco Control, and the Department of Finance's Customs and Revenue and Taxation divisions in enforcing CNMI and federal laws.

"We are hoping that, as we go through, we can have more training and better integration and cooperation with the other law enforcement agencies,"

said Deleon Guerrero, who pointed out that the Macau police have a special intelligence unit that also participates in the vetting process of junket operator applicants.

"We don't have that amenity here. We have to contact outside forces to assist us in looking at Asia but we're working on it to have a similar agency here. We wanted to work together since the resources here will be at our disposal. We work in the same government, and operate under the same laws and regulations," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said they have a 24-7 presence in the casino, being the regulating agency. "We're present there as a government regulatory agency. We also review every government requirement needed like food handler certificates, and CNMI business and ABTC licenses. Any regulatory agency whose license is required, we will work with them in terms of enforcement."

In a separate interview, DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero said that they have additional personnel that they could assign to be part of the casino commission's inter-agency unit. "DPS personnel are assigned based on the need. Like, if there's the need to assign more in the drug task force, we'll do that."

"As far as [CCC is concerned] they have not communicated yet with us. Keep in mind that task forces are composed of various government agencies," Guerrero said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres,

meanwhile, said his administration expects to adhere to all local and federal laws, react-

ing a week after the Bloomberg story came out saying the U.S. Department of the Treasury is looking into Imperial Pacific International's casino operations on Saipan.

"In the case of our casino licensee, we are fortunate that the casino regulator has adopted and implemented detailed and stringent regulations to guard against potential violations. We

will do our part, working alongside our federal and private sector partners, to uphold the law and protect our citizens," Torres said in a statement sent to the *Saipan Tribune*.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Asian nations could regroup on trade, but without the US

In a video statement Monday, President-elect Donald Trump laid out as his first priority the U.S. withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact.

U.S. membership in the TPP became the skunk issue of the campaign as candidates and voters circled in on the theory that TPP and other international trade treaties had led to the export of U.S. jobs overseas. They therefore needed to be ditched or renegotiated for future economic health; it was an essential part of making "America great again," Trump's rallying cry.

The TPP was one of the key pieces of President Barack Obama's "pivot to Asia" and the part of his economic policy that posited America's recovery from the recession and growth on freer trade with Asia and on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, an agreement between the U.S. and European Union, also apparently on the rocks now.

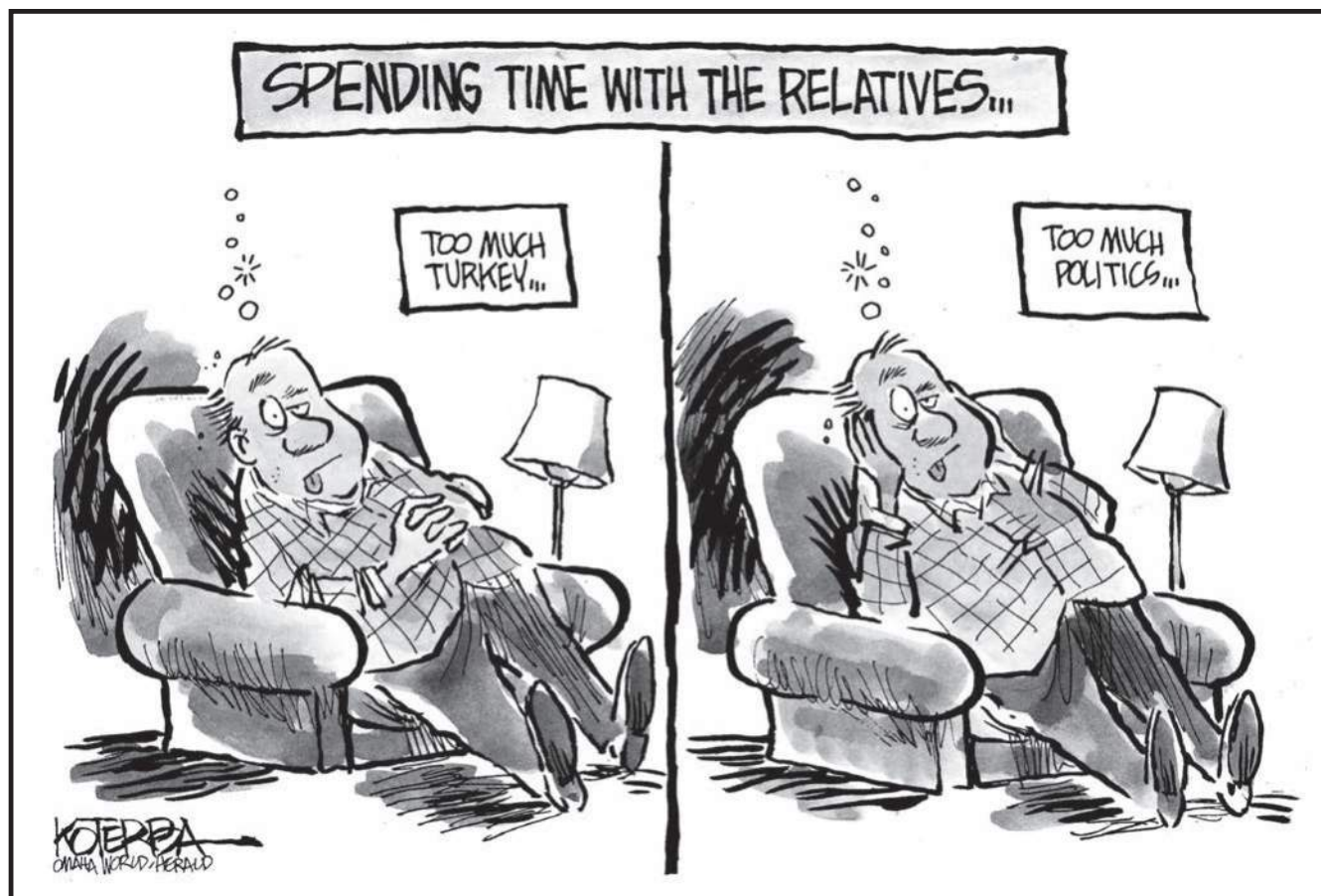
The TPP was signed by 11 other Pacific rim nations, including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. China was excluded, which the Obama administration saw as one of the pact's advantages. The economies of the countries signing the accord added up to about 40 percent of the world's gross domestic product. The removal of tariff barriers among them would make a significant difference in world trade. Obama saw it as to America's advantage. Trump does not agree.

The question now is, what happens to the TPP with the United States out? One possibility is that, without U.S. participation the agreement will simply sink beneath the waves. Another alternative is that the other 11 countries that signed it will continue to see virtues in it, even without U.S. participation, and will ratify it.

It also could be that the other 11 TPP signatories will now invite China on board, eliminating that virtue of the TPP for the United States. Given the size of its economy, China could come to play within the TPP the same leadership role that it is likely to play in implementing the Paris climate change agreement, if the United States drops out as Trump has promised.

Voters expressed on Nov. 8 their deep skepticism that the kind of growth offered by U.S. international trade agreements outweighed the destruction of jobs in the American heartland. The coming years of the Trump administration will show if the choice was correct, and if the new president can strike deals that treat the American worker fairly.

(c)2016 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Why we hate us

Through the widest lens of history, America since the 1980s looks like the most golden of golden ages. The peace and prosperity of this era is unparalleled compared to the rest of the world and the history of our species. Americans became healthier, better fed, longer-lived, safer, sent fewer young people off to war and forged one of humankind's greatest technological revolutions.

But through the narrow lens of our everyday lives, the picture has felt different and tougher. Social science shows that Americans on the whole have found it harder to garner contentment, connection and optimism during these prosperous years—and it has felt that way.

This fluke of modernity has come to be called the prosperity paradox: beyond minimum level of material security and means, human contentment and happiness has not increased in proportion to increased material well-being—income, wealth, consumer options, luxury and "stuff." This phenomenon isn't actually local or recent. It began sometime after World War I and has afflicted all advanced industrial countries to varying degrees.

Despite wheelbarrows full of statistics that prove that humans have never had it so good, we don't feel so good.

We are now coping with an extreme political reaction to the progress paradox. The period that symbolically began with Ronald Reagan's declaration of "morning in America" feels like a series of nightmares in America. Americans who are terrified of Barack Obama and others terrified of Donald Trump are equally discontent.

Trump's rise has been understood as the irate response of America's largest single identity group, white working- and middle-class people. They feel they have suffered as economic inequality has ballooned because of the corruption and warped values of America's professional, educated and political elites. There is truth to this, but it is truth seen through a narrow lens.

We know this because we know that this kind of discontent comes from much more than a lack of material well-being or economic capital. What matters much more to acquiring satisfaction is social capital—the web of our personal relationships, connections to kin, ties to community and binds to institutions and traditions.

So far, the tragedy of modern life is that it has become harder to accumulate social capital, not easier.

American historians, social scientists and artists began to understand the assault on social capital after the cultural revolutions of the 1960s, the violent unrest over civil rights, segregation, Vietnam and then the corruption of Watergate.

For a time, Americans really did buy the picture of the post-World War II years as a golden era, ushered in by the Greatest Generation, Americans who learned through war that we're all in it together.

That picture cracked up by the mid-1960s. Books like "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit" and "The Lonely Crowd" captured the oppressive conformity and sterility of the times felt

By DICK MEYER

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc).



even by the "haves" in society. At a stunning pace, Americans rejected traditional organized religion, traditional family structures, value systems from their ancestors and the codes of capitalism. By the 1960s, many of America's "have-nots" were in full rebellion over segregation, poverty, women's rights, gay rights and Vietnam.

As the smoke from the 1960s cleared, a few visionaries saw a social crisis. One was historian Christopher Lasch. His famous book, "The Culture of Narcissism," argued that Americans were floundering to replace the rejected old, shared and inherited belief systems. Americans increasingly turned to me-centric, ready-made pop therapies, cults, evangelisms, self-help doctrines and increasingly partisan or parochial political factions. None of this worked very well.

Then a political scientist, Robert Putnam, wrote "Bowling Alone," a book that documented the swift decline of the community institutions Americans leaned on to garner social capital and fend of isolation: churches, booster clubs, Girl Scout troops, PTAs, and, of course, bowling leagues. He argued that the invisible infrastructure of organic communities was falling apart.

I tried to write the story of this strand of thinking about America's spiritual challenge in a book titled, "Why We Hate Us: American Discontent in the New Millennium." I tried to help understand why so many Americans had come to literally hate many aspects of their own culture—politics, government, commercial entertainment, Wall Street, big business, the medical system and so on.

The book was published a few weeks before Barack Obama was elected in 2008. After the election, in every interview and book reading, I was asked: Don't you think Obama and the wave of hope that elected him will improve things? Despite my growing admiration for Obama, I grumpily said that I didn't. America's "progress paradox" was too deep, not something repairable by legislation, policy and charismatic leadership. It would take generations of new institutions, new traditions and new sources of kinship—if that. My cheery optimism didn't help book sales.

I certainly did not foresee something as extreme and bellicose as Donald Trump. As fearful as I am about what he might do to our country—our security, values and common cause—I am far more concerned about the enduring tragedy, the difficulty of finding contentment and kinship in the modern world. For now, that can only come from one Thanksgiving at a time.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Natting maaneeee, lai!

The NMI can no longer be lazy or boast ignorance in the review of its financial needs. To surrender to passivity is the perfect recipe for fiscal disaster.

Self-government makes it a must that you (elected elite) must look at the insufficiency of revenues in the local coffers. It requires stronger commitment to ensure it is given real time support to cover the needs of healthcare, education, and others.

You can't second-guess it with the usual negligence in mañana. Nor could you play hide and seek with time that isn't on your side. While you toy around with what little has accrued into the coffers, notice that the level of obligations has jumped by leaps and bounds ahead of collection!

Notice too that there's no socio-economic plan as a matter of blueprint to guide economic growth preceded by the emplacement of basic infrastructure. Isn't there the need to upgrade the old system of water, power, and sewer?

The issue stares at you straight in the eye and I'm sure you know that unless basic infrastructure emplacement is done in the near-term, nothing moves.

Magoo's assessment of inaction has found funding insuf-

ficiency in most government quarters. Everything seems to be drowning in "bankruptcy" in varying amounts. Here's his laundry list for Santa's selection this Christmas:

Old retirement program: bankrupt. Owed some \$779 million! Natting maaneeee!

Healthcare: Being rationed to the hilt! Natting maaneeee!

Medical referral: Natting maaneeee!

Public School System: Looking for maaneeee!

CUC: Looking for maaneeee, broke!

Water: northern villages without water. Natting maaneeee!

Airport: Can't beautify, natting maaneeee!

Runway Lights: Natting maaneeee!

Shipping service to Rota: Company, natting maaneeee!

Old sewer system needs improvement: Natting maaneeee!

Power sputtering: Natting maaneeee!

Economic improvement: Natting Maaneeee in family pocketbooks! Oh?

What if fickle tourism stumbles? Natting maaneeee!

What if economy takes nosedive? Natting maaneeee for jobs and salaries!

Would appeal to D.C. help? Natting maaneeee!

pick up the twins after soccer practice, and not miss the Dallas game. Our lives are so full of plans and expectations that we miss most of what goes on. We don't care about the bigger picture because it doesn't matter. Our consciousness is riveted on "Third and fifteen."

Oh, what we don't know.

If we take a moment to consider all of human knowledge, or experience, of everything that ever existed, we humans know less than a tiny speck of it. We're in the dark, and have been, pretty much since our days as cave dwellers.

Yes, we have advanced technologically, but the human being, the quality of consciousness, has remained about the same. There are still wars, hatred, and bigotry—all based in ignorance.

This ignorance is rooted in a lack of spiritual awareness and connection. It has been often observed that, "We are not humans on a spiritual journey, we are spiritual beings on a human journey." This means that our true nature is spirit—the externals, such as race, color, sexual preferences—are all superfluous. We are here to learn and grow.

Still, most people aren't interested in spiritual matters. They have to pick up the kids, or maybe read about "interesting" topics such as UFOs, the MV *Luta*, or what really happened on 9/11.

In the end, it's all trivia, but it's interesting trivia. Plus it gives me some topics to write about. It also provides readers distraction from things that are most important; and which are, unfortunately, of little interest to them.

Tom Campbell summed it up: our main task as human beings is to care for others more than ourselves. The Dalai Lama said, "We are here to help each other."

While waiting for civilization to progress, I'll continue to write about "interesting" topics and hope for the best.

Russ Mason

As Teo, Saipan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

For all the mounting financial mess at home the evil geniuses on imperial Capital Hill ignores taxing BSI's \$13.5 billion large. The attitude fits the definition of insanity—juggling the same funds, hoping for different results.

For decades the NMI has gone fishing around rocks near reef lines. An interesting fishing trip that skips several schools of fish in search for the elusive teeny one beneath rocks that dashes off from rock to rock. And there we stand with empty spear gun in hand repeating redundancy as though a new work of genius. Seesuzzzz! Yep! We look good without fish, *di ba?* Natting maaneeee!

Contradiction: Now, after 40 years of self-government we would think that the political maturation process has taken root. In short, we would be mature in the disposition of issues that matter. Now, let's review what is that isn't with a sense of honesty.

Have we really made strides in the exercise of self-government given the results of the recent election? I've heard tons of voter dissatisfaction yet the choice is the same for the Do-Nothing bunch returning to redundancy land once more.

Now, don't blame them but yourself! Yep! You wanted the same old music, a path to eventual destruction of the future of posterity. Deal with it!

Words: Local behavior is an interesting study in itself. I've treaded it to get a glimpse and clarity how we handle decision-making. Even more interesting is our inability to make decisions decisively. And so we trace history to see the faintest manner with which decisions have been reached in recent past.

I defer to lingo in that it is in "words that we form the thread upon which we string our experiences." In brief, English is a precise lingo while Chamorro is implied. One is definite, the other meanders into infinity.

Thus the wobbly behavior drowned merciless in "linear" thinking. In other words, we take issues at face value. We hardly analyze the implications and consequences of indecisions. We defer to disoriented talk over formal discussion. In the process, we often retreat to our meandering lingo to hide from taking the bull by the horn. We speak in the sea of gray areas as though we're better than Pontius Pilate. At day's end we're our own victims!

Moreover, words we utter form and depict our attitude. Precision is what's needed especially today when most everything that needs resolution requires the stronger side of our intellectual contributions.

You know of the NMI's financial debacle—obligations piling ahead of available resources—yet you turn your heads against collecting its share of taxes from BSI's recently raked-in \$13.5 billion. Is it pure ignorance or simply the lack of perception among lapdogs or did someone say, "Not yet, already?" Why turn the people you represent into slaves or instant sacrificial lamb?

Lawsuit: Questions have been hurled at me whether I have strong dislikes for people on the flipside of the lawsuit I've filed against the MV *Luta*. No! I know my legal nemesis. And it isn't the people involved as much as the violation of laws in the expropriation of the \$400,000!

Now, did my lawsuit paralyze the MV *Luta* sitting in the Tanapag Harbor? Wasn't it other lawsuits filed against Biktot Hokog and cabal associated with the "mermaid" that included its arrest effectively paralyzing operations? Eh! Out the window goes help for Rota, *di ba?*

Often quietly alone, I'd sit and ponder if the highly esteemed and illustrious legislators even have an inkling of the essence of the lawsuit. If not then what could be the perfect excuse for your failing to see and understand the inherent issue? Humiliating!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We're all in the dark

My writings have often drawn fire for what some readers perceive to be outrageous opinions or, God forbid, conspiracy theories. It's time to come clean.

I always viewed the main job of a writer—any writer—was to be interesting. If the piece wasn't interesting, nobody would finish it. Didn't matter if the material presented was controversial, if it was interesting, it was submitted for publication.

I find Corey Goode to be an interesting man, and I have heard him speak in numerous YouTube videos. Not only does Mr. Goode claim to be part of the Secret Space Program (the U.S. has allegedly traveled to Mars and beyond since the 1970's) but that he has met with alien beings and has also traveled to Venus and other planets. Is what Mr. Goode says true? No idea, but what he says is certainly interesting. Travel to Mars? C'mon. But if you listen to him talk, he sounds pretty convincing.

This is what I find interesting: people who insist that their experiences actually happened, and that they want to get the word out about them.

But wait.

The great writer, H. L. Mencken, wrote, "We are here and it is now. Other than that, all human knowledge is moonshine." That's reality's bottom line: we are here and it is now.

If we dig a little deeper we get to the physicist, Tom Campbell. What he says is that all reality is based in consciousness. In other words, without consciousness, there is no reality. We would have no awareness of "here" or "now." Without consciousness, we would cease to be.

For us Westerners, this topic is not interesting. We have to

laws, including matters of interest by federal jurisdiction as-serting official authority on interstate commerce.

The point here is, the principals involved with the MV *Luta* are having unfettered and free rein over other people's money. It is possible the court would enjoin the parent company and freeze money in bank accounts to preserve what available money that could be reserved in case the litigants prevail in their lawsuits.

The CNMI government should take this matter into account, and urge the OAG to intervene for the people of the CNMI as a way to preserve its rights to collect the unlawful transfer of \$400,000. The entire Legislature should follow, otherwise each and together are part of the entire corruption and the history of the CNMI government would record for future generations that this is just a normal case of impunity favoring a few of well-connected.

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

'Disclose the paper trail'

The money marshaled by the principals of the MV *Luta* enterprise contributed by the Japanese investor, businesses and the CNMI government remains a mystery until the court discloses the full paper trail of accounting records documenting how the principals spent and earned money they accumulated over time.

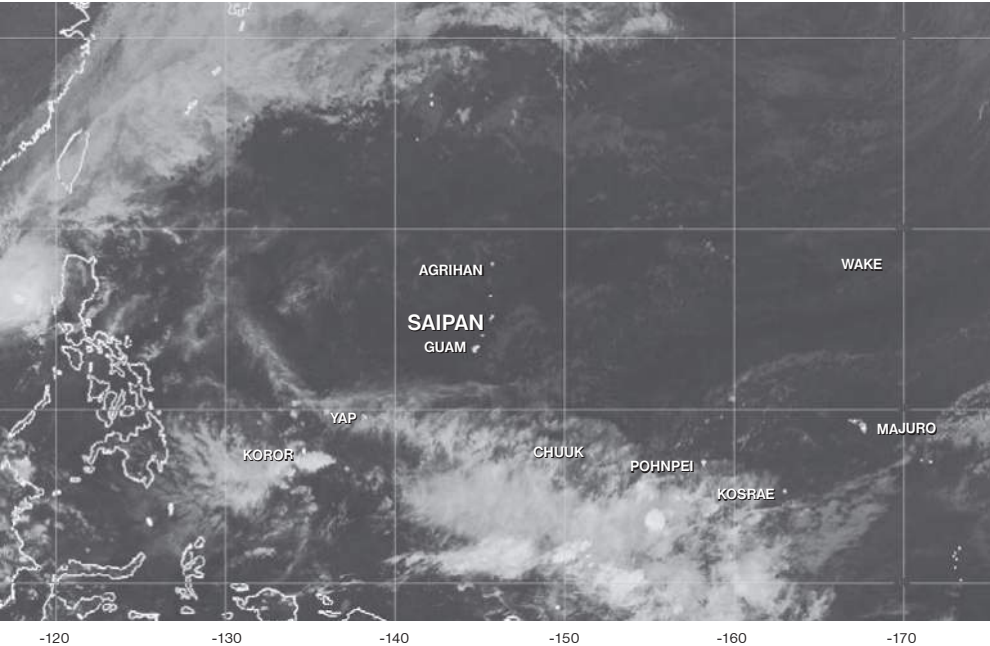
The irony is even more appalling, because the ill-otten loot by the principals would be their primary source of funds to pay for the cost of litigation in the fraud and breach of contract lawsuit, and complaints against the defendants on other lawsuits for procured services connected to the MV *Luta*. Unfortunately, the private litigation may trigger criminal investigations and turn into criminal charges against the same defendants by federal authorities. Unfortunately, Mr. Victor Hocog's connection to the MV *Luta*, even by denying implicit or explicit involvement, still may face investigation and prosecution by federal authorities under applicable federal

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy.	Mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy Friday night.
▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mainly fresh trades and isolated showers are present across the Marianas waters. Seas at the buoys generally range from 6 to 8 feet. The next few days look quiet with moderate to fresh winds and isolated showers. But some uncertainty creeps in toward midweek, as the GFS spins up a tropical cyclone south of Chuuk by Thursday and moves south of Guam Friday night and Saturday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲		
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	83 / 89 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	80 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	78 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	80 / 85 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	83 / 87 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	82 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Partly cloudy	58 / 68 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	13 / 43 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	57 / 69 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	71 / 79 °F
London	Sunny	36 / 46 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	45 / 62 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	80 / 90 °F
Melbourne	Morning clouds	53 / 69 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	71 / 78 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	35 / 49 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	43 / 55 °F
Paris	Sunny	46 / 51 °F
Pusan	Sunny	38 / 49 °F
Rome	High level clouds	38 / 55 °F
Salem	Overcast	45 / 50 °F
San Francisco	Partly sunny	53 / 59 °F
Seoul	Sunny	26 / 39 °F
Tokyo	Morning clouds	45 / 57 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	32 / 54 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
1:03 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.03 Feet
7:38 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.74 Feet
1:10 PM	LOW TIDE	0.99 Feet
6:22 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	5:08 AM	4:59 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	5:42 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	7:34 AM	7:13 PM
Friday	8:23 AM	8:02 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily			
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat						
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily						
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily						
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily						
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily						
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily						
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily						
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily						
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily						
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily						
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily						
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

'Bridge Investment helps keep Tinian afloat'

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Investment Group has been keeping Tinian's economy afloat with the construction of the office building of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and harbor facility near Kammer Beach. Construction is almost done after Bridge Investment worked out with CPA to lease the property.

Aside from offices of the Tinian CPA, the facility includes two steel warehouses and a brown tree snake facility. The total cost of the infrastructure is \$3 million.

Bridge Investment chief executive officer Philip Men-

diola-Long said they chose to build the infrastructure as part of their service to the island instead of applying for the qualified certificate tax program.

"As an investor, we felt that we are putting more burden on the local government if we applied for the QC program. Instead, we chose to invest more in the community by building these infrastructures," Mendiola-Long told *Saipan Tribune*.

Bridge Investment is also planning to revive the ferry service to and from Saipan. Economic activity on Tinian would slowly increase once the harbor opens, giving CPA additional revenue on wharfage fees and other taxes by

cargo ships that would dock.

Mendiola-Long said that Bridge Investment has also employed local workers in the projects that they are developing. "Our workers are 80 percent local. We felt that it is our responsibility to help the community that would support us once we are done with our projects."

They also bought materials and their other needs locally, goods and products that amount close to \$300,000 that circulated within the community.

Mendiola-Long said they are not opposed to the U.S. military's activity on Tinian, especially since two-thirds of the island is already allotted for them. Bombings and other

live-fire training exercises that would use high-powered munitions are, however, things they don't want to take place in the community.

Bridge Investment plans to build two hotels on Tin-

ian where they would bring in the Wyndham brand for one of their projects. Wyndham Hotels & Resorts is the second largest hotel group in the world. Alter City Group is also planning to build a multi-

billion dollar resort in Puntan Diablo.

These projects are projected to offset the economic losses Tinian experienced after the closure of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino last year.

USCIS officer at SHRM's December meeting

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will meet on Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's and will feature Kamana Mathur, the community relations officer of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Pacific District.

Mathur will speak on several topics but the focus of the presentation will be on the I-9 form, its completion and retention and how to avoid discrimination claims. Mathur will also provide information on various visa types and categories, an overview of the green card process, and will discuss the naturalization process. Mathur's position involves meeting members of the community and providing

them with immigration related information and taking back issues presented by the community to USCIS leadership to be appropriately addressed.

Mathur will also provide an opportunity for questions, so come with any concerns you might have about the issues being presented. CW visas and H-2B visas will not be discussed at this meeting.

All members of the community are invited to attend the meeting, which is from 11:30am to 2pm.

SHRM members are urged to come out and gain some worthwhile tips regarding green card applications and I-9 forms.

The attendance fee is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-SHRM members.

Register with Penny Jones by email at penny.jones@hyatt-saipan.com or contact Penny or Lany at 323-5867 or 323-5867. Seats are limited, but still available.

As the local chapter of the world's largest organization for human resource practitioners, the CNMI SHRM holds regular monthly and special meetings on topics that will assist the Commonwealth's HR and management community in keeping abreast of current HR practices and employment law requirements, as well as providing them training on relevant human resource topics. The CNMI chapter has been active since 1996. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at <http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org>. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water outage today in south San Vicente

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in south San Vicente on Dandan Road will be experiencing a temporary water service interruption today, Nov. 28, from 9am to 5pm due to the replacement of a non-working gate valve on Adios Place. The affected area should expect restoration of services soon after. This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, and CUC. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (CUC)

Family grief support group to meet on Thursday

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (TCF)

FOA to hold board meeting

The Friends of the Arts will hold a board meeting tomorrow, Nov. 29, 6:30pm to 9pm, at the Canton Restaurant, across the Mobil station/McDonald's branch in Garapan. The meeting will include musical and thespian entertainment. There will be a detailed discussion regarding the 2017 season and the opportunity to renew membership and purchase season tickets. For more information, contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 today, Nov. 28, from 8am to 10pm. The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla from today, Nov. 28, until Dec. 2, from 8am to 11:55pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. (PR)

Chamber to host career exploration day

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its "2016 Career Exploration Day" on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. High school juniors and seniors will choose a field of business they are interested in and will be paired with a participating chamber business. Students will be recognized at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall during the chamber's membership meeting on Dec. 7 at 12pm. For more information, call the chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. (SCC)

SHEFA deadlines

The SHEFA deadline for new application only is on Dec. 1, 2016. The deadline for all supporting documents is on Feb. 28, 2017. All documents must be complete and submitted at once. (SHEFA)

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 year-

end filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Please confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. (PR)

Holiday closures at Visitor Center

The American Memorial Park Visitor Center will be closed on Dec. 25, 2016, Christmas Day, and on Jan. 1, 2017, New Year's Day. Park staff would also like to encourage the public to visit the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays closed, the VC is open every day from 9am to 5pm. If you have any questions, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

Holiday bazaar on Dec. 4

The annual Brilliant Star School Holiday Bazaar will be held Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9am to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The event is an opportunity for artists and other vendors to showcase their arts, and for residents and visitors to get an early start on buying unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays. Interested vendors may contact the school at 323-STAR (323-7827). For parents who would like to have a little alone shopping time, the event features an arts and crafts area for children. The daylong event is also graced by performances throughout the day by various community cultural and arts groups. There will also be raffles. (PR)

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Store robbery in Dandan

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery that occurred at the New Family Discount Store in Dandan.

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, at about 7:13pm, police responded to a robbery incident at the New Family Discount Store, located at the intersection of Birada St. and Route 305 in Dandan. Police met with and interviewed the store's cashier, an Asian female, 45, and her son, 16, who were both working at the time of the incident. The incident was recorded on video.

At about 7:03pm on the suspect walks north on Dandan main road toward the store southern parking lot, dressed in long-sleeved black sweater,

a pair of long black pants, slippers, and a black T-shirt covering his face. The suspect is described as possibly a local male, 5'8" to 5'10" tall, large build, dark skinned, and in his early 20s to late 30s. The suspect was armed with a machete. The suspect paused for a minute in the parking lot, then rushed into the store where he said, "Give me your money" to the cashier behind the counter. The suspect attempted to go behind the counter but returned to the front of the counter and reached into the cashier drawer and grabbed a few bills from the register drawer. The victim's son attempted to restrain the suspect. The suspect swung the machete toward the vic-

tim's son, almost hitting him. The suspect then exited the store, running south on Dandan (route 305) main road. No one was injured and the amount of money stolen is estimated to be at over \$50 in small bills.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

A video of the incident is on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77upqWnoduo&feature=youtu.be> (Crime Stoppers)



TOKYO DISNEYLAND

Students from Saipan along with the two coordinators sent from Saipan Mayor's Office pose for a photo in front of Tokyo Disneyland Theme Park on Nov. 14.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Dialing up deals: Black Friday online sales hit new high

By ALEX VEIGA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Holiday shoppers eager to snag big discounts turned to the internet in record fashion this week, one tracking company said, driving online sales on Black Friday to a new high.

Consumers spent \$3.34 billion shopping online on Friday, a 21.6 percent increase from the same day last year, according to Adobe, which tracks online retail transactions.

More than ever before, shoppers used their mobile devices to dial up deals online, the firm said, as mobile purchases surged 33 percent on Black Friday to \$1.2 billion.

Retailers also racked up online sales on Thanksgiving Day and the day before, the latest evidence that consumers are increasingly turning to online shopping as an alternative



to wading into malls packed with holiday season bargain-hunters.

College student Emilia Ollearis works at the Water Tower Place mall in Chicago

but is doing virtually all of her shopping online. She said she prefers to go to a store to get a close look at merchandise, but that's it.

"I'll go buy it online," said

Ollearis, 24. "I'm not gonna wait in line for it."

The trend also suggests that consumers are less willing to hold out for potential online deals traditionally found on

AP
Paul Poirier shops for sales at Target on Black Friday, Nov. 25, 2016, in Wilmington, Mass. Stores open their doors Friday for what is still one of the busiest days of the year, even as the start of the holiday season edges ever earlier.

Cyber Monday, which is the Monday after Thanksgiving and has traditionally been the busiest day of the year for online shopping.

"We had projected Cyber Monday to be a \$3.36 billion day, and to win the crown of largest shopping day ever," said Tamara Gaffney, principal analyst and director at Adobe Digital Insights. "But Cyber Monday may not have as much gas left in the tank."

The widespread use of mobile phones and access to high-speed internet are likely contributing to more shoppers turning to the internet ahead of Cyber Monday, Gaffney said. Retailers are also increasingly making available online the type of door-buster deals typically reserved for store locations on Black Friday.

Lisa Collins of Gilford, New Hampshire, will buy gifts online if she finds a better price and free shipping. "Never pay full price," she said.

She felt like prices were better than in past years. "I think there's better deals. I think they're paying attention to on-

line sales," she said.

Tablets had some of the steepest price markdowns online this Black Friday, with an average discount of 25.4 percent, Adobe said. Televisions were down an average of 23.2 percent, while markdowns for toys online were around 15 percent.

All told, shoppers spent \$5.27 billion in online purchases on Thursday and Friday, up 17.7 percent from the two-day period last year, Adobe said.

Even as online spending hit new highs this Black Friday, many shoppers across the U.S. still ventured to malls looking for deals. The Mall of America in Minnesota, which opened 24 years ago, reported that Friday was the highest traffic day it can recall.

Courtney Weitz of Meredith, New Hampshire, picked up a few small gifts at Target in Concord early Saturday. She wasn't able to hit the stores on Black Friday or Thanksgiving because she had to work.

"I checked online and didn't really find anything I wanted," said Weitz, 24. "I only came for a Swiffer and toothpaste, and I'm leaving with a bit more than that."

All told, the National Retail Federation projects that shoppers will spend \$655.8 billion in November and December. That would be a gain of 3.6 percent from a year ago.

For some in middle class, Trump plan would mean tax increase

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump's proposals would modestly cut income taxes for most middle-class Americans. But for nearly 8 million families—including a majority of single-parent households—the opposite would occur: They'd pay more.

Most married couples with three or more children would also pay higher taxes, an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center found. And while middle-class families as a whole would receive tax cuts of about 2 percent, they'd be dwarfed by the windfalls averaging 13.5 percent for America's richest 1 percent.

Trump's campaign rhetoric had promoted the benefits of

his proposals for middle-income Americans.

"The largest tax reductions are for the middle class," said Trump's "Contract With the American Voter," released last month.

The tax hikes that would hit single parents and large families would result from Trump's plan to eliminate the personal exemption and the head-of-household filing status. These features of the tax code have enabled many Americans to reduce their taxable income.

His other proposed tax changes would benefit middle- and lower-income Americans. But they wouldn't be enough to offset those modifications.

"If you're a low- or mod-

erate-income single parent, you're going to get hurt," said Bob Williams, a fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

Unlike Trump's polarizing proposals on immigration and trade, his tax plan is in line with traditional Republican policy. His steep tax cuts in many ways resemble those carried out by Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, and the Republican-run Congress is expected to welcome them.

During the campaign, Trump said his tax cuts—for individuals and companies—would energize the economy by boosting business investment in factories and equipment, while leaving consum-

ers with more cash to spend. His proposals, he contended, would help create 25 million jobs over the next decade.

But Lily Batchelder, a visiting fellow at the Tax Policy Center and former deputy director of President Barack Obama's National Economic Council, estimates that roughly 7.9 million families with children would pay higher taxes under his proposals. About 5.8 million are led by single parents. An additional 2.1 million are married couples.

Other analysts, including economists at the conservative Tax Foundation and right-of-center American Enterprise Institute, have agreed with Batchelder's conclusions.

Some fear California's tax on e-cigarettes may deter smokers

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Smoking has dropped to historic lows nationwide, dramatically decreasing revenue from tobacco taxes. In search of funds, a growing number of states are taxing electronic cigarettes—a trend that is sparking a fierce public health debate over whether it will deter smokers from switching to a safer alternative.

California became the seventh state to tax e-cigarettes with the overwhelming approval of a Nov. 8 ballot measure. Proposition 56 also will add a \$2 per pack state tax to cigarettes onto the already existing 87 cents per pack tax.

State officials are still calculating the new tax structure. The vaping industry estimates the tax could hike up the price

of the battery-operated devices and liquids by more than 60 percent, making it more expensive to vape than smoke, even with the additional per-pack tobacco tax.

California just made the most attractive option unattractive for many smokers, and unaffordable," said Gregory Conley of the American Vaping Association, which advocates for electronic cigarettes as an alternative to tobacco. "Some may never make an attempt to quit."

The taxation of e-cigarettes has split the public health community between those who support e-cigarettes being treated the same as tobacco and those who see them as an important tool in the fight against smoking, the leading cause of preventable deaths in

the United States.

There's no scientific consensus on the risks or advantages of "vaping."

"It's one of the nastiest debates I've ever seen in the public health community, and I've been researching tobacco control policies for 40 years," University of Michigan public health professor Kenneth Warner said. "The momentum, if you will, is in the direction against e-cigarettes, for sure, and it is unfortunate in a big way, because we may be missing out on a potential intervention that could reduce the toll of smoking by a lot."

E-cigarettes heat a nicotine liquid into a vapor, delivering the chemical that smokers crave without the harmful tar generated from burning tobacco.

Britain promotes the devices

for smokers. Its leading physicians' organization said it found the devices were 95 percent safer than cigarettes, but some U.S. researchers dispute that.

E-cigarettes emit chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other harm, and there is concern over the long-term impact that nicotine has on adolescent brain development, according to California's Public Health Department. Use among young adults ages 18 to 29 has tripled in the state.

"The evidence is piling up very fast that e-cigarettes are more dangerous than people thought," said Stanton A. Glantz, a professor of medicine and director of the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California San Francisco.

Wells Fargo seeks arbitration order in customer lawsuit

By ALEX VEIGA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Wells Fargo & Co. wants a federal court judge in Utah to order that customers suing the banking giant over improper sales practices submit their claims to binding arbitration.

The San Francisco-based company's request applies to a class-action lawsuit filed initially by three Utah residents who at one time had accounts with the bank.

They sued Wells Fargo in September, one week after the bank made headlines for agreeing to pay \$185 million to settle allegations that its workers opened millions of accounts without customers' permission to reach aggressive sales targets.

The class-action complaint, which alleges breach of contract, fraud and other claims, now includes 80 named plaintiffs.

In a filing Wednesday to U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups, Wells Fargo as-

serted that the plaintiffs agreed to submit any disputes to arbitration when they signed up for Wells Fargo checking accounts, credit cards or other services.

The lender also asked the court to allow it to gather more information on 22 of the plaintiffs so that the company can determine whether they should also be included in its request to have plaintiffs' claims deal with via arbitration.

Additionally, Wells Fargo asked Waddoups to dismiss the lawsuit, in case the company's bid for an arbitration order fails.

The lawsuit is just one example of the extent of the fallout over Wells Fargo's sales practices scandal, which led to the abrupt retirement this month of the bank's CEO, John Stumpf. Wells Fargo also faces several other lawsuits, as well as criminal investigations by the Department of Justice and the California Attorney General's Office.

Nation

Trump slams recount push as 'a scam,' says election is over

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday condemned a growing push to force recounts in three states pivotal to his Nov. 8 victory, confronting the Green Party-backed effort for the first time even as he worked to address key Cabinet vacancies.

The New York billionaire, who charged the election was "rigged" on a daily basis before his victory, called the developing recount effort "a scam" in a statement released by his transition team.

Trump had been ignoring Green Party nominee Jill Stein's fight to revisit vote totals in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Wisconsin officials announced late Friday they are moving forward with the first presidential re-

count in state history.

"The people have spoken and the election is over," Trump declared Saturday. He added, "We must accept this result and then look to the future."

At the same time, Trump was scrambling to address unfilled administration jobs, having barely scratched the surface of creating the massive team needed to run the government before his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Experts say presidential transitions are periods of great vulnerability for the nation, and among the vacancies on the Trump team are leaders of the departments of State, Defense and Homeland Security.

Trump, who has virtually no experience in foreign affairs, offered a one-line tweet

Miami's joyous Cubans hope for change with Castro's death

MIAMI (AP)—Wearing his "Bay of Pigs Veteran" shirt, 80-year-old Rafael Torre stood amid hundreds of Cuban-Americans celebrating the death of Fidel Castro and marveled that he remained in power for so long.

Cuban exiles such as Torre tried numerous ways to dislodge Castro after he took power in 1959, including the failed 1961 CIA-backed invasion memorialized on his shirt. Now, like many others, Torre is hopeful for Cuba's future with the bearded revolutionary leader finally gone.

"We tried for more than 50 years but couldn't do it. Now he's dead, and maybe things can change," Torre said. "It might take three or four years. Maybe the revolution will be on the streets in three or four months."

Thousands of people took to the streets of Miami and nearby cities Saturday shortly after the early morning announcement of Castro's death at age 90, and kept the party going all day. They banged pots with spoons, honked car horns, waved Cuban and U.S. flags in the air and whooped in jubilation on Calle Ocho—as Little Havana's 8th Street is universally known.

Police blocked off streets leading to Cafe Versailles, the quintessential Cuban-American hotspot where strong cafe-citos—sweetened espresso—were as common as a harsh word about Castro, the nemesis of so many exiles for so long. Many said they recognize his death alone doesn't mean immediate democracy or freedom for the communist island.

"We need for the people of Cuba to have the freedom we have in the U.S., but this changes nothing. There won't be change until the people revolt," said Juan Cobas, 50, who came to the U.S. from Cuba at age 13.

Others saw Fidel's death as a sign that a generation that has ruled Cuba for decades is passing from the world stage, many noting that his brother, current President Raul Castro, is 85.

"I'm feeling this is the beginning of the end," said Alex Piniro, 32. "Fidel was the architect of what's going on. It's a mix of emotions, I'm happy he's dead, but I'm celebrating hope."

There were no reports of violence or any arrests during the demonstrations, Miami police spokeswoman Kenia Fallat said Saturday. Miami-Dade County officials said there were no plans to activate the emergency operations center—another sign of the more subdued reaction to Castro's death than might have previously been expected.

"They are celebrating but in a very peaceful way," Fallat said of the demonstrators.

The U.S. Coast Guard was running regular patrols and not increasing staffing levels or taking other emergency steps, said Petty Officer Jonathan Lally. The Coast Guard has seen a sharp uptick recently in Cubans attempting to arrive in Florida by sea, with at least 7,411 Cubans attempting to migrate over the Florida Straits in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 compared with 4,473 in the same timeframe last year.



AP
A large crowd protest in opposition of President-elect Donald Trump, Friday, Nov., 11, 2016, in front of the luxury condominium towers that bear his name along the waterfront in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Saturday morning in reaction to the death of Cuban leader Fidel Castro—"Fidel Castro is dead!"—before issuing a more detailed statement.

"While Cuba remains a totalitarian island, it is my hope that today marks a move away from the horrors endured for too long, and toward a future in which the wonderful Cuban people finally live in the freedom they so richly deserve," Trump said.

His transition team did not respond to requests to clarify his Cuba policy, which was inconsistent during the campaign.

Trump first suggested he supported President Barack Obama's orders loosening the U.S. trade embargo on the island. He reversed himself

less than a month before the election, however, vowing to overturn Obama's order unless Cuba meets demands including "religious and political freedom for the Cuban people and the freeing of political prisoners."

Meanwhile, the incoming president paid little if any attention Stein's recount push, but Democratic rival Hillary Clinton forced his hand on Saturday by formally joining the effort. Stein, who drew 1 percent of the vote nationally, is raising millions of dollars to fund the recounts.

"Because we had not uncovered any actionable evidence of hacking or outside attempts to alter the voting technology, we had not planned to exercise this option ourselves," Clinton campaign attorney Marc Elias wrote Saturday in blog post. "But now that a recount has been initiated in Wisconsin, we intend to participate in order to ensure the process proceeds in a manner that is fair to all sides."

Trump disavowal of white supremacists doesn't quiet concerns

ATLANTA (AP)—Donald Trump's disavowal this week of white supremacists who have cheered his election as president hasn't quieted concerns about the movement's impact on his White House or whether more acts of hate will be carried out in his name.

Members of the self-declared "alt-right" have exulted over the Nov. 8 results with public cries of "Hail Trump!" and reprises of the Nazi salute. The Ku Klux Klan plans to mark Trump's victory with a parade next month in North Carolina. Civil rights advocates have recoiled, citing an uptick in harassment and incidents of hate crimes affect-

ing blacks, Jews, Muslims, Latinos, gays, lesbians and other minority groups since the vote.

The president-elect has drawn repeated criticism for being slow to offer his condemnation of white supremacists. His strongest denunciation of the movement has not come voluntarily, only when asked, and he occasionally trafficked in retweets of racist social media posts during his campaign.

Further, Trump has named Stephen Bannon, the conservative media provocateur who shaped the final months of Trump's campaign, as a White House chief strategist who

will work steps from the Oval Office. Bannon's appointment has become as a flashpoint for both sides.

Trump's detractors and his "alt-right" supporters broadly agree on one thing: It may not even matter what Trump himself believes, or how he defines his own ideology, because his campaign rhetoric has emboldened the white identity politics that will help define his administration.

"Those groups clearly see something and hear something that causes them to believe he is one who sympathizes with their voice and their view. ... Donald Trump has to take responsibility for that," said

Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, a black Democrat. He was among 169 members of Congress who signed a letter opposing Bannon's White House appointment.

White nationalist leader Richard Spencer said he believes Trump, Bannon and the "alt-right" are "all riding in the same lane." Spencer explained that neither Trump nor Bannon is a movement "identitarian," Spencer's preferred term for his racially driven politics. But Spencer said Trump's election validates Spencer's view that America must reject multiculturalism and "political correctness" in favor of its white, Christian European heritage.

\$20K reward offered as sheriff vows to capture jail escapees

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California sheriff is promising to capture a pair of men who sawed their way out of a California jail and vanished late Thanksgiving Eve.

Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith told reporters Friday that authorities are using helicopters, dogs and other means as they search night and day for the two men. A \$20,000 reward has been posted for the capture of Rogelio Chavez and Laron Campbell.

Smith said authorities believe the two are still in the area, noting search dogs tracked them to a nearby river before losing their scent.

"We will find these two and

any person who is harboring or aiding and abetting in their escape we will attempt to prosecute," she said.

The sheriff also told reporters that authorities have received numerous credible tips from people who believe they saw the two, including one tip that came from the area that search dogs had chased them to.

She encouraged people to keep reporting such information but warned they should not to try to confront the men.

"I want to remind the community that these are dangerous people," she said. "They are not to be approached. Please just dial 911."

The pair escaped with two

other prisoners by cutting through the bars covering a second-story window of the county's main jail and then rappelling to the ground. The others were quickly apprehended.

Chavez, 33, and Campbell, 26, are facing possible life sentences if convicted of burglary, extortion, false imprisonment and other charges they were being held on. Chavez had been held at the jail since August and Campbell since February 2015.

Chavez, who is from San Jose, is recognizable by a distinctive face tattoo resembling an inky gash going through his left eye. Campbell, who is from

Palo Alto, stands 6-feet-4.

Smith said authorities still haven't found the tools used to cut through the bars and don't know how they were obtained.

"That's one of our big concerns," she said. "To think that we have inmates in there with those kinds of tools is pretty disheartening."

The escapees were being held in a dormitory designed to hold 20 people. Conditions there are often very loud, Smith said, making it hard for guards to hear any suspicious noise that might have been made.

That section of the jail, built in the 1950s, doesn't have cameras either, which helped facilitate the escape.

Asia

Who deserves millions in art seized from Marcos regime?

NEW YORK (AP) — A multimillion-dollar trove of seized Impressionist art believed to have been owned by the regime of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos has sat for five years in a climate-controlled Brooklyn warehouse, the subject of a bitter legal fight.

At issue is whether the 50 works — which include an 1881 painting by Claude Monet — should go to thousands of victims of the now-dead dictator, to the current Philippine government or to the personal secretary to Imelda Marcos, who contends she was rightfully given some of the art as gifts.

“It’s a question of who is the owner and who is entitled,” said Robert Swift, a human rights attorney representing nearly 10,000 victims of the Marcos regime who in 2011 won a judgment against Marcos, his estate and Imelda, his wife.

Of particular interest in the long-running, multi-jurisdictional case is an 1899 Monet from the “Water Lilies” series called “Le Bassin aux Nymphéas,” that the secretary, Vilma Bautista, sold in 2010 for \$32 million. The other highly disputed items are three other prominent paintings still locked away in storage — an 1897 Alfred Sisley paint-



AP
In this Sept. 26, 1982 file photo, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and First Lady Imelda Marcos appear at a rally in the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

ing called “Langland Bay”; Monet’s 1881 “L’Eglise et La Seine a Vetheuil”; and Albert Marquet’s 1946 “Le Cyprès de Djenan Sidi Saïd.”

Both the government agency established by the Philippines to recover billions of dollars in assets believed to have been amassed during Marcos’ more than 20-year regime, the Presidential Commission on

Good Government, and Swift believe they’re entitled to the paintings.

“My client has nothing against the human rights victims,” said Casey Murphy, the American lawyer representing the commission. “Our point is, if these were paintings accumulated through misappropriated funds, they should go to all Filipinos and

not just one class of people and their lawyers.”

And then there’s Bautista, who kept \$28 million when she sold the water lily to a Panamanian corporation controlled by a London-based art gallery. That gallery then sold the painting to a British hedge fund manager in Switzerland for \$43 million, according to court papers.

The hedge fund manager has paid \$10 million to Swift’s

clients. The Filipino government has also sought to recover the painting.

New York City prosecutors charged Bautista with failing to disclose the sale on her 2010 tax returns, and she was convicted after a five-week trial in 2013 of conspiracy, tax fraud and other charges. About \$15 million of her funds were frozen by the courts.

A lawyer for Bautista, who is now 78 and free while appealing her conviction, hasn’t returned a message seeking comment. At the time, her lawyers argued she had the right to sell the Monet, which was owned by Imelda Marcos. The other paintings were given to her as gifts or obtained on her own, her lawyers have argued.

Castro’s death a reminder in China of changed communist axis

BEIJING (AP)—In the shadow of east Beijing’s soaring glass skyscrapers, elderly retirees still speak nostalgically about their Cuban brothers-in-arm, faraway comrades bound by communist solidarity.

But in central Beijing’s halls of power, Cuba is perhaps seen these days as something less romantic: a market for China’s booming private-sector exports.

Viewed from the world’s largest communist country, Fi-

del Castro’s death is a reminder of how the communist axis has changed beyond recognition since the ideologically charged era when the bearded revolutionary cut a dashing figure on the world stage alongside leaders like Mao Zedong.

After establishing diplomatic relations in 1960, the countries’ fortunes diverged over the ensuing decades: China began adopting free-market reforms in the 1980s and morphed into an economic powerhouse—Com-

munist mostly in name—while Castro persisted with Marxism, Cuba’s economy hobbling on under U.S. sanctions.

Today, the two countries’ leaders frequently nod to their shared ideological history, but bilateral relations revolve more around jointly developed beach resorts or Chinese telecoms investments. In a September visit, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang offered to support Cuba’s development as a “comrade and brother,” while

Castro congratulated China on the growth it has achieved and sought assistance in agricultural technology.

At around \$2.2 billion a year, trade between the two countries is dwarfed by China’s commerce with the rest of Latin America, which totals \$236 billion, according to Chinese state media. But China is Cuba’s top creditor and second-largest trading partner after Venezuela, and ties have deepened swiftly.

Anti-Park protesters march in Seoul for 5th straight week

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—For South Korean farmer Lee Hyo-shin, demanding the ouster of President Park Geun-hye was a slow and grueling 10-day journey atop a vehicle unable to move faster than 20 kilometers (12 miles) per hour.

He was one of hundreds of thousands of South Koreans who marched on Saturday in streets near Seoul’s presidential palace, where Park is bracing for what’s likely to be a bitter and prolonged fight against lawmakers who may attempt to impeach her as early as next week.

Prosecutors accuse Park of

assisting criminal activities of a secretive confidante who allegedly manipulated power from the shadows and extorted companies to build an illicit fortune.

Police said 270,000 people took part in the fifth straight weekend of massive protests against the unpopular president, making it the largest rally yet. Organizers put the turnout at 1.5 million.

“The fatigue is really starting to kick in,” said Lee, 53, who, while leading a convoy of farmers, traveled nearly 300 kilometers (186 miles) from the seaside county of Haenam

on his tractor before police on Friday stopped the vehicles near Seoul.

“Pulling Park down isn’t going to be easy, but we farmers are good at injecting energy into demonstrations,” Lee said.

Thousands of people marched in streets close to the presidential Blue House, areas police usually don’t permit, carrying signs and flags. Protesters later turned a darkened boulevard in front of an old palace gate into a sea of light, waving candles and singing and shouting for Park’s removal.

The country’s largest opposition party said it will seek to

propose an impeachment motion for vote as early as Friday and no later than Dec. 9. Some members of Park’s conservative party have vowed to support an impeachment attempt, arguing it would serve the party’s interests to distance itself from Park ahead of next year’s presidential election.

The massive rallies in recent weeks have been mostly peaceful, but there was tension Friday night as police clashed with some of hundreds of anti-Park farmers who had planned to roll into the capital on tractors and trucks, injuring several farmers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 militants, 2 Pakistani soldiers killed in attack on mosque

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—A small group of militants armed with guns and suicide jackets attacked a mosque at an army facility in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, triggering a shootout in which four insurgents and two soldiers were killed, the military and officials said. The army said 14 troops were also wounded in the attack on Ghalani Camp in Mohmand tribal region bordering Afghanistan. It said in a statement that security forces “valiantly averted” an attempted suicide attack and killed all four militants. It said the attackers wanted to enter the camp and started firing after they reached the mosque, where residents and a large number of recruits gathered for an early morning prayer. The army said the attackers were contained in the outer courtyard of the mosque.

13 detained in China over deadly construction collapse

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities detained 13 people over the collapse of scaffolding at a power plant construction site that killed 74 workers, as a preliminary investigation zeroed in on how the building company had rushed the job. Most of the dead had been working on the interior concrete wall

of a massive circular cooling tower 70 meters (230 feet) up when the scaffolding collapsed Thursday morning, resulting in one of China’s most serious industrial accidents in years. In a statement issued Saturday, the committee of the State Council, or China’s cabinet, said early findings suggested that a shortened timeframe for the power plant project, hasty construction and mismanagement played a role in the disaster, without giving details.

7 dead, 1 missing as waves hit New Zealand fishing boat

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Seven people were killed and another person was missing after a chartered fishing boat disappeared from view in large waves at the entrance to a harbor near Auckland, New Zealand authorities said. The boat Francie was carrying 11 people when it got into trouble on Saturday afternoon in Kaipara Harbour. Rescuers managed to pull three survivors from the water, who were taken to a hospital. A search for the missing person was continuing Sunday, said police Inspector Duncan Hall. Crew members from the boat notified the coast guard that they were attempting to cross a sandbar at the entrance to the harbor at about 2 p.m., said Patrick Holmes, the chief executive of Coastguard New Zealand.

World

Iraq's parliament adopts law legalizing Shiite militias

BAGHDAD (AP)—Rekindling sectarian rivalries at a sensitive time, Iraq's parliament on Saturday voted to fully legalize state-sanctioned Shiite militias long accused of abuses against minority Sunnis, adopting a legislation that promoted them to a government force empowered to "deter" security and terror threats facing the country, like the Islamic State group.

The legislation, supported by 208 of the chamber's 327 members, was quickly rejected by Sunni Arab politicians and lawmakers as proof of the "dictatorship" of the country's Shiite majority and evidence of its failure to honor promises of inclusion.

"The majority does not have the right to determine the fate of everyone else," Osama al-Nujaifi, one of Iraq's three vice presidents and a senior Sunni politician, told reporters after the vote, which was boycotted by many Sunni lawmakers.

"There should be genuine political inclusion. This law must be revised."

Another Sunni politician, legislator Ahmed al-Masary, said the law cast doubt on the participation in the political process by all of Iraq's religious and ethnic factions.

"The legislation aborts nation building," he said, adding it would pave the way for a dangerous parallel to the military and police.

A spokesman for one of the larger Shiite militias welcomed the legislation as a well-deserved victory. "Those who reject it are engaging in political bargaining," said Jaafar al-Husseini of the Hez-

bollah Brigades.

"It is not the Sunnis who reject the law, it is the Sunni politicians following foreign agendas," said Shiite lawmaker Mohammed Saadoun.

The law, tabled by parliament's largest Shiite bloc, applies to the Shiite militias fighting IS as well as the much smaller and weaker anti-IS Sunni Arab groups. Militias set up by tiny minorities, like Christians and Turkmen, to fight IS are also covered.

According to a text released by parliament, the militias have now become an "independent" force that is part of the armed forces and report to the prime minister, who is also the commander in chief.

The new force would be subject to military regulations, except for age and education requirements—provisions designed to prevent the exclusion of the elderly and uneducated Iraqis who joined the militias. The militiamen would benefit from salaries and pensions identical to those of the military and police, but are required to sever all links to political parties and refrain from political activism.

The legislation came at a critical stage in Iraq's two-year-long fight against IS, a conflict underscored by heavy sectarian tensions given that the group follows an extremist interpretation of Sunni Islam and the security forces are predominantly Shiite. The Shiited government last month launched a massive campaign to dislodge IS from predominantly Sunni Mosul, Iraq's second largest city and the last major urban center still held by the extremist group.

Somalia: 11 killed in car bomb blast in the capital

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A car bomb exploded near a police station in a busy market in the Somali capital on Saturday, killing at least 11 people and injuring 16 others, a police official said.

The attack targeted a police station in Mogadishu's Waberi neighborhood while President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud had been visiting a university, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

He said the death toll was likely to rise, citing the horrific injuries suffered by the victims.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but the al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremist group al-Shabab often car-

ries out such attacks.

Al-Shabab, which seeks to establish an Islamic emirate ruled by a strict version of Shariah law, has waged an insurgency against Somalia's weak U.N.-backed government.

More than 22,000 peacekeepers are deployed in Somalia in the multi-national African Union force. Al-Shabab opposes the presence of foreign troops.

Despite being ousted from most of its key strongholds in south and central Somalia, the group continues to launch deadly guerrilla attacks against the Somali government and African Union forces across large parts of the horn of Africa nation.



An Iraqi special forces soldier, takes his position at a street where his brigade fight against the Islamic State militants, in the Bakr front line neighborhood, in Mosul, Iraq, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016.

Through the military, the government has used the campaign to project an image of even-handedness, reaching out to the city's residents and promising them a

life free of the atrocities and excesses committed by IS. It has also excluded the Shiite militias from the battle, winning a measure of goodwill from the Sunnis. But Satur-

day's legislation may stoke the simmering doubts of many Sunnis about the intentions of the government.

The Shiite militias, most of which are backed by Iran,

have been bankrolled and equipped by the government since shortly after IS swept across much of northern and western Iraq two years ago. Many of them existed long before IS emerged, fighting American troops in major street battles during the U.S. military presence in Iraq between 2003 and 2011. Their ranks, however, significantly swelled after Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, called for jihad, or holy struggle, against IS in June 2014.

They now number over 100,000 men and fight with heavy weaponry, including tanks, artillery and rocket launchers. The larger militias have intelligence agencies and run their own jails. Since 2014 they have played a key role in the fight against IS, checking its advance on Baghdad and the Shiite holy cities of Samarra and Karbala and later driving the militants from areas to the south, northeast and north of Baghdad.

Imagining Cuba's human rights situation after Fidel Castro

By ANITA SNOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A look at the life of Fidel Castro

He overthrew a strongman, brought his country free health care and education, and enlisted Cubans in what he called fights for freedom from Central America to South Africa. Fidel Castro also maintained a steel grip at home, jailing dissidents and gays, controlling freedom of travel and expression and declaring virtually any activity outside his control to be illegitimate.

In the wake of the revolu-

tionary's death Friday night, human rights groups said they hoped that his brother and successor, Raul Castro, would move faster toward allowing Cubans more freedom of speech, assembly and other basic rights.

"The question now is what human rights will look like in a future Cuba," Erika Guevara-Rosas, the Americas director for Amnesty International, said Saturday. "The lives of many depend on it."

Under Raul Castro, Cuba has moved away from jailing political prisoners for extended sentences, instead making thousands of short-term

arrests each year that Cuban dissidents say are designed to harass them and disrupt any attempt at political organizations. Cubans today feel freer to criticize their government in public, but any attempt at protest or demonstration is swiftly quashed. Independent journalists operate inside the country but find it nearly impossible to distribute printed material and they report repeated harassment from authorities.

Geoff Thale, director of programs at the Washington Office on Latin America, said Fidel Castro's death meant that hardliners op-

posed to his younger brother's modest reforms would be weakened, and "we are hopeful open political debate will pick up."

When discussing their country's human rights record, Cuban officials along with some rights advocates point out that the revolutionary government under Fidel Castro ran a massive literacy campaign, and dramatically improved the lives of millions of people by providing better access to housing and health care.

"For this, his leadership must be applauded," said Amnesty's Guevara-Rosas.

West Bank settlement evacuated in 5th day of Israeli fires

JERUSALEM (AP)—Fires raged in several locations across Israel for a fifth day Saturday, including in a Jewish West Bank settlement where 40 homes were burned and all 1,000-plus of its residents evacuated.

After several days of extended fires that caused major damage in northern Israel and in the Jerusalem area, firefighters have managed to quickly gain control of most of the blazes that have erupted since.

They got a major boost Saturday with the arrival from the United States of the Boeing 747-400 "Supertanker," the

world's largest fire-fighting aircraft that is capable of carrying 75 tons of fire retardant. It has already been deployed over the forest area surrounding Jerusalem, joining an international fleet of firefighting aircraft that has arrived to assist.

A special team of neighboring Palestinian firefighters also arrived to help, prompting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to place a rare call to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and thank him for his support in overcoming the fires. With peace talks frozen, the two leaders have had little interaction. Netanyahu's office said he also told Abbas

that he appreciated how Arabs, alongside Jews, had both opened their homes to those whose houses were destroyed.

Though no deaths or serious injuries have been caused by the spate of fires, dozens have been hospitalized for smoke inhalation and hundreds of homes have been damaged.

The blazes began four days ago near Jerusalem and backed by dry, windy weather they later spread elsewhere. The most devastating fire hit Israel's third-largest city of Haifa, where more than 60,000 were evacuated and many homes were destroyed.

Initial investigations point

to the majority of the fires being caused by arson. The country's leaders claim Arab attackers are behind them, with some calling it a continuation of a year-long campaign of Palestinian stabbing attacks against Israelis.

Overnight, the settlement of Halamish was evacuated after several fires erupted there. Earlier, a large fire swept toward the village of Nafat on the outskirts of Jerusalem, burning a famous restaurant there to the ground. Local witnesses say the blaze was caused by a firebomb hurled from a neighboring Arab village.

Focus

Fidel Castro, who defied US for 50 years, dies at 90 in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Fidel Castro, who led his bearded rebels to victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of rule in Cuba, has died at age 90.

With a shaking voice, President Raul Castro said on state television that his older brother died at 10:29 p.m. Friday. He ended the announcement by shouting the revolutionary slogan: "Toward victory, always!"

Castro's reign over the island nation 90 miles (145 kilometers) from Florida was marked by the U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis a year later that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. Castro, who outlasted a crippling U.S. trade embargo as well as dozens, possibly hundreds, of assassination plots, died 10 years after a life-threatening illness led him to turn over power to his brother.

Castro overcame imprisonment at the hands of dictator Fulgencio Batista, exile in Mexico and a disastrous start to his rebellion before triumphantly riding into Havana in January 1959 to become, at age 32, the youngest leader in Latin America. For decades he was a source of inspiration and support to revolutionaries from Latin America to Africa, even as Cubans who fled to exile loathed him with equal measure.

His commitment to socialism was unwavering, though his power finally began to fade in mid-2006 when a gastrointestinal ailment forced him to hand over the presidency to Raul in 2008, provisionally at first and then permanently. Castro's defiant image lingered long after he gave up his trademark Cohiba cigars for health reasons and his tall frame grew stooped.

"Socialism or death" remained Castro's rallying cry even as Western-style democracy swept the globe and other communist regimes in China and Vietnam embraced capitalism, leaving this island of 11 million people an economically crippled Marxist curiosity.

He survived long enough to see his brother negotiate an opening with U.S. President Barack Obama on Dec. 17, 2014, when Washington and Havana announced they would move to restore diplomatic ties for the first time since they were severed in 1961. He cautiously blessed

the historic deal with his life-long enemy in a letter published after a monthlong silence. Obama made a historic visit to Havana in March 2016.

Raul has announced plans to retire as president when his current term ends on Feb. 24, 2018. Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel, a relatively younger leader, is seen as a possible successor, although Raul has said he would stay on as head of the Communist Party.

In the Cuban capital, flags flew at half-staff at public buildings and some foreign embassies across the city Saturday. By midday, the U.S. Embassy's flag had not been lowered.

Havana's 23rd Street commercial center bustled with shoppers toting plastic bags and youngsters checking the internet on their smartphones like a normal weekend afternoon. But there was a notable lack of amplified music in this usually sonorous capital.

Official newspapers were published with only black ink instead of the usual bright red or blue mastheads.

Carlos Rodriguez, 15, was sitting in Havana's Miramar neighborhood when he heard that Fidel Castro had died.

"Fidel? Fidel?" he said, slapping his head in shock. "That's not what I was expecting. One always thought that he would last forever. It doesn't seem true."

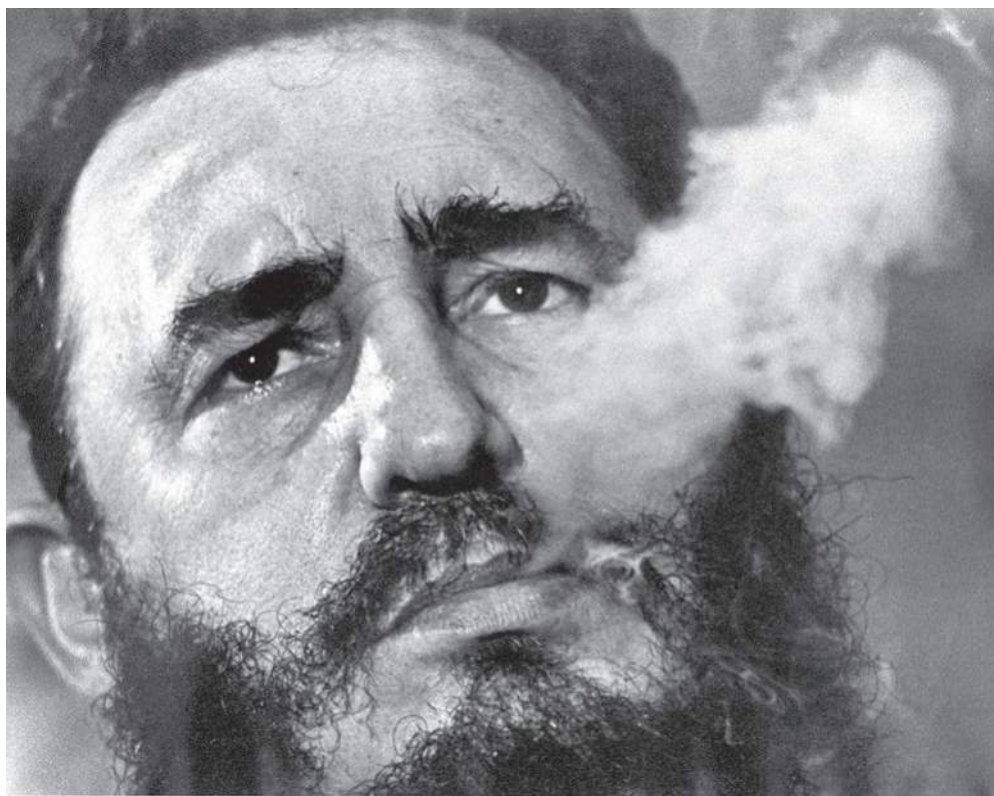
"It's a tragedy," said 22-year-old nurse Dayan Montalvo. "We all grew up with him. I feel really hurt by the news that we just heard."

But the news cheered the community of Cuban exiles in Florida who had fled Castro's government. Thousands gathered in the streets in Miami's Little Havana to whoop, wave Cuban flags, and bang on pots with spoons. Cars honked horns, and police blocked off streets.

Alex Ferran, 21, headed toward the gathering in front of exile hangout Cafe Versailles with three friends early Saturday morning after his mother and grandmother called him with the news. He was beside himself with excitement.

"We're here to celebrate. This is history in the making," Ferran said. "This is insane, dude. Someone died and there's a parade. This could only happen here."

Obama said that the United States extended "a hand of friendship to the Cuban people" and that "history will record and judge the enor-



In this March 1985 file photo, Cuba's leader Fidel Castro exhales cigar smoke during an interview at the presidential palace in Havana, Cuba. Castro has died at age 90. President Raul Castro said on state television that his older brother died late Friday, Nov. 25, 2016.

mous impact of this singular figure on the people and world around him."

Obama said that in the coming days, Cubans "will recall the past and also look to the future. As they do, the Cuban people must know that they have a friend and partner" in America.

President-elect Donald Trump called Castro "a brutal dictator who oppressed his own people for nearly six decades." He said he hoped the death would clear the way "toward a future in which the wonderful Cuban people finally live in the freedom they so richly deserve."

He said his administration will do all it can to help Cubans "begin their journey toward prosperity and liberty."

Fidel Castro Ruz was born Aug. 13, 1926, in eastern Cuba's sugar country, where his Spanish immigrant father first worked recruiting labor for U.S. sugar companies and later built up a prosperous plantation of his own.

Castro attended Jesuit schools and then the University of Havana, where he received law and social science degrees. His life as a rebel began in 1953 with a reckless attack on the Moncada military barracks in the eastern city of Santiago. Most of his comrades were killed, and Fidel and his brother Raul went to prison.

Fidel turned his trial defense into a manifesto that he smuggled out of jail, famously declaring, "History will absolve me."

Freed under a pardon, Castro fled to Mexico and organized a rebel band that returned in 1956, sailing across the Gulf of Mexico to Cuba on a yacht named Granma. After losing most of his group in a bungled landing, he rallied support in Cuba's eastern Sierra Maestra mountains.

Three years later, tens of thousands spilled into the streets of Havana to celebrate Batista's downfall and catch a glimpse of Castro as his rebel caravan arrived in the capital on Jan. 8, 1959.

The U.S. was among the first to formally recognize his government, cautiously trusting Castro's early assurances he merely wanted to restore democracy, not install socialism.

Within months, Castro was imposing radical economic reforms. Members of the old government went before summary courts, and at least 582 were shot by firing squads over two years. Independent newspapers were closed and in the early years, homosexuals were herded into camps for "re-education."

In 1964, Castro acknowledged holding 15,000 political prisoners. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans fled, including Castro's daughter Alina Fernandez Revuelta and his younger sister Juana.

Still, the revolution thrilled millions in Cuba and across Latin America who saw it as an example of how the seemingly arrogant Yankees could be defied. And many on the island were happy to see the seizure of property of the landed

class, the expulsion of American gangsters and the closure of their casinos.

Castro's speeches, lasting up to six hours, became the soundtrack of Cuban life and his 269-minute speech to the U.N. General Assembly in 1960 set the world body's record for length that still stood more than five decades later.

As Castro moved into the Soviet bloc, Washington began working to oust him, cutting U.S. purchases of sugar, the island's economic mainstay. Castro, in turn, confiscated \$1 billion in U.S. assets.

The American government imposed a trade embargo, banning virtually all U.S. exports to the island except for food and medicine, and it severed diplomatic ties on Jan. 3, 1961.

On April 16 of that year, Castro declared his revolution to be socialist, and the next day, about 1,400 Cuban exiles stormed the beach at the Bay of Pigs on Cuba's south coast. But the CIA-backed invasion failed.

The debacle forced the U.S. to give up on the idea of invading Cuba, but that didn't stop Washington and Castro's exiled enemies from trying to do him in. By Cuban count, he was the target of more than 630 assassination plots by militant Cuban exiles or the U.S. government.

The biggest crisis of the Cold War between Washington and Moscow exploded on Oct. 22, 1962, when President John F. Kennedy announced there were Soviet nuclear mis-

siles in Cuba and imposed a naval blockade of the island. Humankind held its breath, and after a tense week of diplomacy, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev removed them. Never had the world felt so close to nuclear war.

Castro cobbled revolutionary groups together into the new Cuban Communist Party, with him as first secretary. Labor unions lost the right to strike. The Catholic Church and other religious institutions were harassed. Neighborhood "revolutionary defense committees" kept an eye on everyone.

Castro exported revolution to Latin American countries in the 1960s, and dispatched Cuban troops to Africa to fight Western-backed regimes in the 1970s. Over the decades, he sent Cuban doctors abroad to tend to the poor, and gave sanctuary to fugitive Black Panther leaders from the U.S.

But the collapse of the Soviet bloc ended billions in preferential trade and subsidies for Cuba, sending its economy into a tailspin. Castro briefly experimented with an opening to foreign capitalists and limited private enterprise.

As the end of the Cold War eased global tensions, many Latin American and European countries re-established relations with Cuba. In January 1998, Pope John Paul II visited a nation that had been officially atheist until the early 1990s.

Aided by a tourism boom, the economy slowly recovered and Castro steadily reasserted government control, stifling much of the limited free enterprise tolerated during harder times.

As flamboyant as he was in public, Castro tried to lead a discreet private life. He and his first wife, Mirta Diaz Balart, had one son before divorcing in 1956. Then, for more than four decades, Castro had a relationship with Dalia Soto del Valle. They had five sons together and were said to have married quietly in 1980.

By the time Castro resigned 49 years after his triumphant arrival in Havana, he was the world's longest ruling head of government, aside from monarchs.

In retirement, Castro voiced unwavering support as Raul slowly but deliberately enacted sweeping changes to the Marxist system he had built.

His longevity allowed the younger brother to consolidate control, perhaps lengthening the revolution well past both men's lives.

Health & Fitness

Sweat it out! Skin patch aims to test sweat for health

WASHINGTON (AP)—Breaking a sweat? Researchers are creating a skin patch that can test those droplets while people exercise and beam results to their smartphones, possibly a new way to track health and fitness.

The experimental gadget goes well beyond activity monitors like the Fitbit. A little larger than a quarter, it's almost like a tiny lab stuck to the skin—and a study published Wednesday found it worked on sweaty bicyclists, sticking even during a long-distance race in Arizona.

If you think of perspiration as just a drippy nuisance, think again.

"Sweat has biochemical components within it that tell us a lot about physiological health," said John A. Rogers, who directs Northwestern University's Center for Bio-Integrated Electronics and led the new research.

Today's wearable technology helps people track their calories, activity and heart rate. A wearable biosensor would be "radically different," Rogers said.

For simple fitness purposes, it could give an early warning

that it's time to replenish electrolytes before someone starts to feel dehydrated. But eventually with additional research, Rogers envisions more sophisticated use of such devices, such as real-time monitoring of how the body adjusts during military training, or even to screen people for diseases such as diabetes or cystic fibrosis.

Rogers, who did much of the research while at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has long worked to develop electronic devices that can stretch and twist with the body. The skin-like sweat patch adds a capability called microfluidics, capturing and analyzing tiny amounts of body fluid.

How it works: Stick the patch on the skin and start moving. Tiny channels collect perspiration and route it to different compartments where it interacts with chemicals that change color to reflect sweat loss, the perspiration's acidity level, and concentrations of chloride, glucose and lactate.

Together, those measurements can indicate such things as hydration levels or electrolyte loss. Hold a smartphone over the patch, and an app



This photo provided by J. Rogers, Northwestern University, shows a soft, skin-mounted microfluidic device for capture, collection and analysis of sweat.

AP

takes a picture of the colors and interprets what they mean.

In two studies reported Wednesday, Rogers' team stuck patches to the arms and

backs of 21 healthy volunteers. Nine rode exercise bikes in a gym to compare the sweat patches' performance with the decidedly lower-tech method

of sweat-testing used today—taping on absorbent pads and carting the resulting wet samples to a laboratory. For a more real-world test, the other 12 bicyclists wore the patches while competing in a long-distance outdoor race in Tucson.

The patches stayed in place and worked even in the challenging outdoor race, and the patches' biochemical test results agreed with the indoor bikers' conventional sweat tests, the researchers reported in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

"It seems really practical," said Stanford University chemical engineering professor Zhenan Bao, who also researches novel biomedical

materials but wasn't involved with the sweat patch. By simply looking at a color change, "such a patch allows people to now have an opportunity to understand their health and how it changes depending on activities."

It's a growing field: Other research groups around the country, including some of Bao's colleagues, are pursuing wearable biosensors.

Rogers' sweat patches are designed for one-time use over a few hours. While Wednesday's studies used an early version that analyzed sweat just once during the exercise, he's now testing a design capable of multiple measurements over time.

Death toll from Australia's thunderstorm asthma reaches 6

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Six people have died and five remained on life support after a rare condition known as thunderstorm asthma struck Australia's second-largest city, officials said on Sunday.

The sixth victim died in a hospital on Saturday night from medical complications stemming from a wild thun-

derstorm that struck Melbourne on Monday night, a Health Department statement said.

Five patients remained in intensive care units and three of those were in critical condition, the statement said. Another 12 patients were in hospitals with less serious respiratory and related conditions.

Monday's storm caused rain-sodden ryegrass pollen grains to explode and disperse over the city, with tiny pollen particles penetrating deep into lungs. Around a third of patients who suffered asthma attacks on Monday reported never having asthma before.

The storm overwhelmed emergency services and hospitals in this city of 4.5 million

people, with 8,500 receiving hospital treatment.

The world's first recorded thunderstorm asthma event occurred in Melbourne in 1987, when hospitals reported a five-fold increase in asthma cases. Similar events have happened in the United States, Canada, Britain and Italy. The last major event in Melbourne was in November 2010.

The color of sodium

Sunlight and light from an electric lamp are made up of many colors, but some light is "monochromatic" and made up of only one color.

You'll need

- Salt
- Gas stove
- Adult helper

Try This

- 1 Ask your helper to turn on a burner and let it get very hot
- 2 Watch what happens when your helper sprinkles a few grains of salt on the burner

What happened?

Salt makes small yellow flashes as it burns

That is the color you see when the element sodium takes in energy (heat from the burner), then releases the energy as light

Table salt, or sodium chloride, is made up of the elements sodium and chlorine

Look outdoors at night for lights that make the same color light as the burning salt

Those are sodium lights; the sodium in them takes in energy from electricity and gives it off as light



Source: Peter Macinnis' Science Playwiths
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

TNS

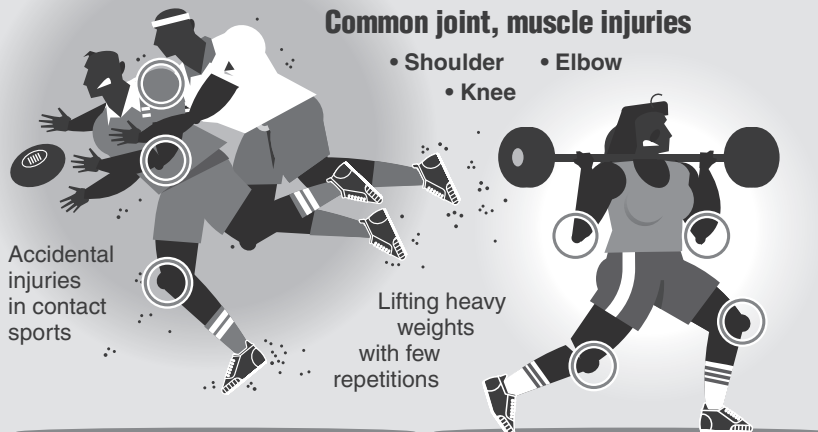
Personal Trainer

Warning to 'weekend warriors'

Trying to pack a week's worth of sports and exercise into Saturday and Sunday sets up many "weekend warriors" for injury.

Common joint, muscle injuries

- Shoulder
- Elbow
- Knee



Does not improve fitness

None of these increase significantly if two-day workouts are followed by five sedentary days

- Strength
- Flexibility
- Endurance



Escaping the weekend syndrome

Get at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity every day

- Playing with children
- Working in garden
- Walking dog
- Taking stairs instead of riding elevator



Source: Dr. Kevin Plancher, WebMD; American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Revelers cheer amid police at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

NEW YORK (AP)—Santa Claus, giant cartoon balloons and whimsical floats were protected by sand-filled dump trucks and bomb-sniffing dogs as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade wound its way through the streets of Manhattan under heavy security.

The annual spectacle went off without a hitch Thursday, with thousands of spectators and more than 3,000 police officers lining the streets amid an air of uncertainty about the possibility of an extremist attack.

"There are so many police officers out here you can't help but feel safe," said Sarah Bender, who brought her two young sons to watch the parade. "It's a day to have fun, watch the balloons and celebrate with your family. You can't spend your life worrying about what could happen."

While authorities had said there was no confirmation



Dancers make their way across Sixth Avenue during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, in New York, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016. AP

of any credible threat, they stepped up safety measures in the wake of the July cargo

truck attack on a holiday crowd in Nice, France, and a recent posting in an English-

language Islamic State group magazine that called the Thanksgiving parade "an ex-

cellent target."

Revelers cheered and yelled, "Thank you!" to officers along the route Thursday, giving special attention to the New York Police Department marching band.

Spectators sometimes stood 10 deep to see the parade and its signature giant balloons, including Ronald McDonald, SpongeBob SquarePants, Charlie Brown and other characters. Marching bands from across the country entertained revelers, as did such celebrity singers as Tony Bennett and Sarah McLachlan.

Annie Quinn traveled more than three hours from Albany to attend the parade with her cousin and two sisters—all three dressed in turkey costumes—scoring prime front-

row seats along the route.

"We sat here for hours, but it was worth it," she said. "This was the best parade I've seen in a while."

But amid the fun and high-fives, there was intensive security.

Officers with assault weapons and portable radiation detectors walked among the crowds, and more than 80 sanitation trucks filled with sand were parked at intersections and other places, acting as barriers against any kind of attack.

Police have used sanitation trucks as barricades before. But the NYPD had said the trucks would play a bigger role at this year's parade after the Nice attack, which killed more than 80 people.

Dev Patel sunk his teeth into 'Lion' and didn't let go

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dev Patel knows how special a film like "Lion" is. He's been waiting nearly 8 years, since his breakout in "Slumdog Millionaire," for a role as substantive and soulful as Saroo Brierley, an Indian man who was lost as a 5-year-old, adopted and raised by Australian parents, and who, 25 years later, used Google Earth to retrace his steps to his hometown and his birthmother, not knowing the name of either.

"I read an article about it somewhere, I'm not quite sure where, and I was completely mesmerized," Patel said.

It's why the 26-year-old pursued the part so aggressively, showing up at screenwriter

Luke Davies's doorstep before the script was even finished, and, after winning the part, taking a full eight months to prepare. Not only did the rail-thin Patel bulk up to play the sporty Saroo, grow his hair out, and learn a difficult Australian accent, but he also fully immersed himself into the emotional and spiritual reality of the man.

"I traveled the trains in India. I wrote a diary. I went to orphanages. I'd watched every piece of material about (Brierley) out there on Google and YouTube. When I met him I felt like, 'God I've

known you for eight, nine, months already,'" Patel recalled. "The first thing I said was, 'You found a needle in a haystack from space. You literally did that.' And he started laughing."

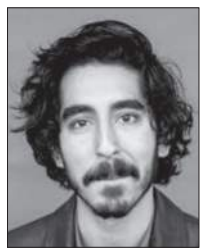
Brierley and Patel had to go much deeper than that, though. This is not a simple boy goes home story. Brierley's traumatic separation from his home and his mother and struggle to survive on his own is contrasted by his then comfortable upbringing in Australia with supportive and loving adoptive parents. His past is something that he

represses for years, until it becomes a ghost so undeniable that he must do everything he can to find his mother.

"We sat down and spoke about this idea of guilt. He spoke about astral traveling with me. We got very meta in a way," Patel said. "He could remember these things so vividly because every single night he would walk those streets home to his mother. That's how he could remember it."

It's one of those stranger-than-fiction stories that begs for cinematic treatment.

"I can't say that the majority or even half the movie is sensationalized. It really isn't. It actually happened in real life," Brierley said.



Patel

Museum celebrates Boston's favorite ducks with new exhibit

BOSTON (AP)—America's most famous mallard family is waddling into Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

"Make Way for Ducklings" opens Friday, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the children's book of the same name. The exhibition looks back on the career of Robert McCloskey, who wrote the classic in 1941 and won a Caldecott Medal for it the following year.

The heartwarming story and elegant illustrations in "Make Way for Ducklings" have dazzled readers for decades, but especially so in Boston, where bronze statues of the duck family are a fixture in the downtown Public Garden.

In the story, the mallards wander through Boston's busy streets, ducking fre-

netic car and bike traffic and taking time to enjoy peanuts tossed by people on the city's Swan Boats.

"I hope the love for that publication will draw people in," said Meghan Melvin, the exhibition's curator. "He was such an observant artist, very detailed and perceptive. That will come through in these sketches."

McCloskey, who died in 2003 at age 88, was a celebrated illustrator and author who produced eight picture books including "Blueberries for Sal," "Lentil" and "Centerburg Tales."

The exhibition displays illustrations from the special archives at Emporia State University in Kansas that have largely been kept private until recently.

To say the Mallard family is beloved in Boston and the surrounding area is an understatement. In fact, "Ducklings" fans might argue there is no better place for a McCloskey retrospective than the Museum of Fine Arts, situated less than 2 miles from the spot where the bronze birds call home.

Sculptor Nancy Schon's statues of Mrs. Mallard leading her eight progenies through the Public Garden have drawn tourists from afar since their installation in 1987. "Make Way for Ducklings" also was named the official children's book of Massachusetts in 2003.

"We read the book before we came here today," said Yuen Kwan, a Boston resident attending a preview of the exhibition with her

4-year-old son, Matthew Bronk. "I'd say we go see the statues in the Public Garden a couple times a year."

Included in the exhibition is a miniature version of Schon's sculptures, with a couple of notable differences: the addition of police officer Michael, who stops traffic so the ducks can cross the street safely, and a scene painted in watercolor, a contrast to the book's signature sepia drawings.

McCloskey had envisioned the book in color, Melvin said. But because of the high cost of color printing during World War II, the editor opted for sepia.

"That will be a big surprise for people," Melvin said. "They feel very strongly about the sepia illustrations because that is what they know."

Usain Bolt talks about his new documentary

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Usain Bolt is now a movie star. He refuses to say he's an actor.

Such a distinction is important for the Jamaican sprinting great and nine-time Olympic champion. Until his competitive career ends next year, Bolt will continue playing only one role—that of the world's fastest man, someone who beat the odds to acquire immense fame and fortune on his way to becoming one of the biggest stars in global sport.

As such, it's not a made-for-Hollywood version of himself that takes center stage in the documentary "I Am Bolt," which is being released Monday. As the title wants viewers to believe, the Bolt who is in the film is the



Bolt

very same one that his friends, family and other members of his close-knit inner sanctum have seen for as long as they've known him.

"I wasn't an actor," Bolt said. "I wasn't trying to push a different person forward."

This is Bolt, a behind-the-scenes view of the superstar that took about two years to make and has him holding the camera at times. The idea in large part surrounds Bolt's quest for the so-called triple-triple—three gold medals in three events at three consecutive Olympics, something no sprinter in the history of the sport had ever accomplished.

He pulled it off, to little surprise, at the Rio Games.

And then he could finally exhale, knowing this film would have the perfect ending.

"Oh my God, you have no

idea the pressure that I was under," Bolt said in a recent interview with The Associated Press, as the production was winding down. "But I live for these moments. I love the pressure. And I have all the confidence in myself and my coach and the team I have that it would come true for me. The pressure was there, but the confidence was always there—which made it much easier."

Bolt agreed to make this film after realizing that he would be able to convince both his fans and his detractors that what they see on the track—a free-spirited showman who tries to be stoic and serious only when absolutely necessary—is what they would get if they tagged along with him on

a typical day.

He shows off some of the spoils of his life, whether it's the party scene or traveling or enjoying luxury. He also shows how all that is possible, with 5:30 a.m. workouts that he groaned through and the rigors of what's needed to keep an elite athlete in top physical condition.

"I live a simple life, you know what I mean?" Bolt said. "One of the things that made me really want to do this was people always saying: 'Aw, this is not really who he is. He's not always laughing. It's not always fun for him.' This is who I am. I really wanted to show people this is who I am. I like to have fun. I like to chill. I like to go out. That's just a part of me. The part that people don't see, that's the part I want to show people behind the scenes, the hard work."

Feng Xiaogang wins Golden Horse for 'I Am Not Madame Bovary'

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Veteran Chinese director Feng Xiaogang picked up the best director award for his social satire "I Am Not Madame Bovary" at the 53rd Golden Horse Awards, considered the equivalent of the Oscars for Mandarin-language cinema.

Feng's "I Am Not Madame Bovary" stars Fan Bingbing as a woman who spends a decade fighting China's bureaucracy to have her divorce nullified after being swindled by her ex-husband.

Best feature at Saturday's ceremony went to Zhang Da-

lei's "The Summer Is Gone," about a boy's summer vacation in Inner Mongolia in the early 1990s set to the backdrop of shrinking jobs at state-owned companies during a time of economic reform. The film's 10-year-old actor Kong Weiwei took home the best new performer award.

The two lead actresses in the romantic drama "Soul Mate" shared the best actress award. Zhou Dongyu and Ma Sichun played two best friends whose relationship is tested when they fall in love with the same man.



From left, Hong Kong director Derek Tsang, Taiwanese actress Bowie Tsang and Hong Kong actor Eric Tsang arrive at the 53rd Golden Horse Awards in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016.

"Together we make a fantastic duo," said Ma. "I would not be me without her, and she would not be her without me."

Fan Wei won best actor for his performance in "Mr. No Problem" as the manager of a money-losing farm in Chongqing in the 1940s. Fan said he was grateful the jury had "perceived the subtleness I brought to the character."

James Hetfield says Metallica makes music they want to hear

NEW YORK (AP)—Inside a Brooklyn soundstage, Metallica has a relaxed vibe. The bandmates are making a music video for the single "Now That We're Dead" from their new album, "Hardwired. To Self-Destruct."

After frontman James Hetfield returns from the all-white set following his bit in front of the camera, he hands off his guitar, shakes out his hand and is relieved he "didn't drop the pick this time."

It's been eight years since producer Rick Rubin brought the band back to life—at least in the studio—with the CD "Death Magnetic," and though the band has toured continuously since then, there wasn't a sense of urgency to get back in the studio.

"Fans have reminded us," Hetfield said. "Metallica is usually pretty busy. We don't have watches. We don't keep a super tight schedule, but we have fun and we do a lot of stuff."

This is Metallica's tenth stu-

dio album in their 35-year history, yet it's no secret that fans prefer material recorded before 1992. Hetfield said the band plays music it wants to hear.

"That's number one. If the fans enjoy it, that's up to them. We can't please everyone. We do our best, and hopefully the people show up and understand the truth and honesty to us and our craft," Hetfield said.

This time, Metallica decided to make their album close to their homes near San Francisco. "We all live in northern California with all of our families, and take our domestic responsibilities very seriously. So we decided that we wanted to make this record at home," drummer Lars Ulrich said.

Both Ulrich and Hetfield said they were able to maintain their classic sound by hiring Greg Fidelman. He worked on "Death Magnetic" with Rubin, serving as engineer. This time around, he stepped up to co-produce the record with Ulrich and Hetfield.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Aretha's anthem gobbles Thanksgiving conversation

DETROIT (AP)—Aretha Franklin's lengthy version of the national anthem ahead of the Detroit Lions-Minnesota Vikings matchup may have been as much a topic at Thanksgiving dinner as the game itself. Franklin's "Star Spangled Banner" clocked in at 4-minutes, 35 seconds on Thursday. That's compared to about 2-minutes, 20 seconds for Whitney Houston's iconic rendition of the song ahead of the Super Bowl in 1991. Franklin quickly started trending on social media. One Twitter user joked that there was enough time to cook a turkey, eat and do the dishes during the performance. Others opined that the 74-year-old "Queen of Soul" had earned the right to sing the anthem for as long as she wanted. The CBS production team got in on the fun during the game by including Franklin in a time of possession graphic.

Putin gives Russian passport to US actor Steven Seagal

MOSCOW (AP)—President Vladimir Putin has given a Russian passport to U.S. action film star Steven Seagal, call-

ing it a sign of a thaw in relations with the United States. The 64-year old actor has been a regular visitor to Russia in recent years and has accompanied Putin to several martial arts events. Seagal also has vocally defended the Russian leader's policies and criticized the U.S. government. After awarding Seagal citizenship through a presidential decree earlier this month, Putin hosted the actor at the Kremlin on Friday and handed him the passport. Putin told Seagal he hopes the ceremony, which was shown on Russian state television, is "also a sign of a gradual normalization of the relations between the countries."

Taylor Swift posts Thanksgiving 'mannequin challenge'

Taylor Swift has celebrated Thanksgiving by enlisting her squad in a "mannequin challenge" video. The video posted on the singer's Instagram account Thursday shows Swift and friends frozen in various poses on a Rhode Island beach before breaking out in a dance party. Swift also posted pictures of herself with model friends Lily Donaldson and Martha Hunt. Also joining Swift for the holi-

day were Broadway star Todrick Hall and her brother, Austin. Swift is the latest celebrity to take on the "mannequin challenge," which has become a social media craze over the past several weeks. (AP)

Don't get nostalgic: Punk music memorabilia burned in London

LONDON (AP)—Don't get nostalgic about punk music—and if you do, don't go collecting memorabilia from the glory days of the Sex Pistols. That seemed to be the message Saturday when the son of Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren and fashion designer Vivienne Westwood set fire to an extensive collection of punk memorabilia on a boat in central London. Joe Corre claimed his collection of clothes, posters and other music-related items was worth 5 million pounds (\$6.25 million). He watched it go up in flames along with effigies of prominent British politicians loaded with fireworks. Corre told the crowd watching his self-styled protest on the River Thames that "punk was never, never meant to be nostalgic." His famous parents helped spearhead the punk music and fashion movements in the 1970s.

Unworkable living arrangement weighs heavily on young man

DEAR ABBY: Earlier this year I moved away from home to move in with my boyfriend. We had been dating for more than a year and were close enough we could see each other whenever our schedules allowed. However, over the last few months I have been second-guessing that decision. I'm noticing things that I realize won't work.

To make matters more complicated, I met a girl who quickly became a good friend three months ago. She has inspired—and in some ways pushed -- me to go back to college and improve my life. I find myself falling for her. The thing is, she just started dating someone, and I would never betray my partner by being unfaithful.

I don't know what to do. I can see my relationship with my boyfriend is not going to work out, and I know I'm not going to violate my female friend's relationship either. How does someone end a relationship when they live together? And how do I deal with the fear that I'll be miserable being on my own again, and the guilt of breaking my partner's heart?

MIXED-UP GUY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MIXED-UP GUY: The first thing you need to do is recognize that being unencumbered can be a positive thing, particularly if you are not happy or satisfied with the relationship you are in. The adage "When a door closes, another one opens" is usually true.

Start looking around for alternative living arrangements, and when you find something that will work for you, explain to your boyfriend that you need to "make some changes." It's better for both of you than living a lie.

As to your relationship with the young woman, whether she stays with the person she's dating is something neither of us can predict. When you are single, she may become available. Or, you may meet someone else and start a relationship. Don't be afraid. These are the things that make life interesting.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together six years. This Christmas will be our second year as a married couple. On Christmas morning, my husband goes over to his parents' house to open gifts with his siblings. They are all adults; the oldest two are almost 40. (Both are single.) I'm not invited and have never been invited to their home, despite living five minutes away, because his mother is a hoarder.

We are expecting our first child in April. My husband works in law enforcement and is typically not off the entire day on Christmas. He calls me selfish and accuses me of trying to ruin their family tradition when I tell him this needs to end. I do not appreciate my husband taking off on me for four hours every Christmas morning. I want us to start our own traditions. Am I wrong?

WANTS OUR OWN TRADITIONS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR WANTS: Be thankful you have never been invited to your MIL's home because from your description, the experience wouldn't be pleasant.

Since you and your husband are starting a family now, I see nothing wrong with wanting to start some traditions of your own. However, it doesn't have to be an either/or situation. A way to do that without causing WWII would be to suggest alternating the Christmas mornings he spends at his parents' house, or schedule your gift exchange for a time when your husband can be with you. Once the baby arrives, holiday plans are bound to change.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



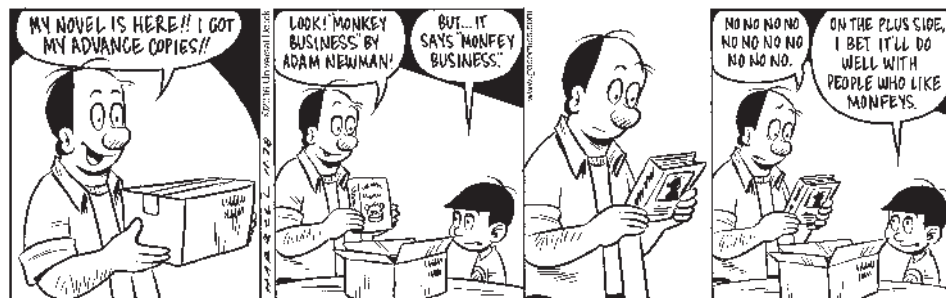
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Diner dessert
4 Chest muscle
7 Charon's river
11 Curved lines
13 Lawyers' org.
14 Nest setting
15 Get bent out of shape
16 Scratch familiarly
17 Knocks pigeon
18 Small
20 Boo-boo's mentor
22 Fish eggs
24 Two-piece suit
28 "Billy Budd," for one
32 Man of La Mancha
33 Bedouin
34 Poorly lit
36 Concept
37 Strong winds
39 Poetic feet

DOWN

1 Fido's feet
2 Bagdad's land
3 Beige
4 Actress Dawber
5 Online auction site
6 Ersatz chocolate
7 Win big in Vegas
8 —la-la-huh"
9 "Uh-"
10 Ballot box marks
12 Guest's sleeping area
19 Arg. neighbor
21 Dogtag wearers (Abbr.)
23 Days of yore
25 Race place
26 Yuletide tune
27 Nest egg choices
28 Kvetches
29 Exam format
30 Low-lying area
31 Succor
35 Gullet
38 Pvt.'s superior
40 Low isle
42 Haunting
45 Poet
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49 Accomplishes
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54 Mal de —

Solution time: 28 mins.

Friday's answer 11 - 28

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A	M	O	P	I	C	D	R	E	S	S
R	C	O	J	D	A	U	N	I		
C	A	N	A	R	D	B	A	I	T	E
L	I	M	B	S	O	A	T	M	E	T
C	R	E	L	A	N	T	E	U	P	
C	E	L	E	S	T	A	C	L	A	N
J	N	O	H	O	C	H	A	N	O	I
S	E	N	E	M	O	S	N	I	T	S

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 40; Jon Stewart, 54; Ed Harris, 66; Paul Shaffer, 67.

Happy Birthday: Embracing and dealing with inevitable changes will end up being a saving grace. Well-thought-out home and business plans can be strategically put into play. An honest assessment of what you want to do, what you are capable of doing and what you should be doing will be necessary if you are going to excel. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 25, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Step into unfamiliar territory. Whether you visit someplace new or try something you've never done before, it will help you make a decision with regards to your next goal. A financial gain or negotiation looks promising. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share a creative idea with someone you respect, and together you will find a way to turn it into a reality. Improving your health, fitness and appearance will enhance your personal life as well. Romance is highlighted. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of business. Hiding from what needs to be addressed will only make matters worse. Say what's on your mind and offer solutions that will counter any negativity that springs up. Show your strengths and encourage others to step up. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't trust anyone who offers free information. Research anything you are considering before you make a decision or a move. Trust in your

own skills and experience to help you reach whatever goals you set. Start small and build. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): What are you waiting for? It's your turn to take action and make things happen. Engage in discussions with people you feel can help you reach your goals. Turn something you enjoy doing into a fun way to bring in extra cash. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Protect your home, assets and your reputation. Someone is likely to portray you as something you are not. Let your actions speak for you by following through with your promises and plans and by doing what's best for everyone. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Live and learn. Make a point to gather as much information as possible from the people you know you can trust. A change at home will grow into a dilemma if you aren't willing to speak up about your concerns. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share feelings and you will get the go-ahead to move forward. Changes you implement at home will inspire you to take on a new venture. Love is in the stars, and making special travel plans with someone you love is encouraged. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check out what's going on behind the scenes. The better informed you are, the better you will do. Don't leave anything to chance and believe only in what you determine to be fact. Don't give in to emotional mind games. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Present and promote what you want to do. How others perceive you will make a difference in the support you receive. A practical, well-thought-out strategy will inspire positive gains and reassurance that you are on the right track. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen to other people's problems and show encouragement, but don't take on what doesn't belong to you. Engage in prospects that have your best interests at heart, and you will make lucrative decisions based on smart negotiations. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be true to yourself and to your beliefs. Don't let anyone twist your arm or coax you into doing something that doesn't feel right. Let your creative imagination and intuition guide you to what works best for you. Love is highlighted. *****

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, conscientious and hardworking. You are a team player.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6		5	4		7	9	
8					6			3
9		2	7			5		
	8					4		9
5				7				2
2		6					8	
		9			4	3		1
4			6					5
	5	1		2	9		7	

Difficulty Level ★

11/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
1	2	7	5	9	8	3	6	4
5	9	3	4	6	7	1	2	8
9	6	1	3	7	2	4	8	5
2	7	5	8	4	6	9	1	3
8	3	4	9	1	5	2	7	6
7	5	9	6	2	4	8	3	1
3	1	8	7	5	9	6	4	2
6	4	2	1	8	3	5	9	7

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

11/28

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VICTOR SWEATERS

Solution: 7 letters

A	T	J	S	S	E	V	E	E	L	S	P	A	C	S
C	O	S	R	O	T	Y	R	U	X	U	L	E	A	S
R	K	C	E	N	D	N	U	O	R	O	R	F	R	E
A	A	P	B	V	E	L	F	I	N	E	E	D	L	
M	C	O	I	M	O	B	K	G	M	G	P	P	I	E
A	W	N	F	O	U	S	S	O	U	S	Y	U	G	V
T	I	C	W	T	A	L	N	A	U	T	C	A	E	
A	L	H	T	C	E	I	R	O	L	I	A	T	N	E
C	D	O	R	E	A	D	I	A	I	K	M	H	S	L
O	N	E	V	L	I	C	Y	N	N	C	E	I	R	S
S	D	E	M	N	E	O	S	D	C	E	L	N	I	S
T	F	I	G	R	E	O	E	A	N	I	M	A	L	
L	T	O	P	S	A	E	F	S	S	V	D	V	H	T
Y	L	T	I	N	K	F	T	E	V	R	E	S	E	R
D	S	D	E	D	O	O	H	A	N	D	M	A	D	E

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Andes, Animal, Buttons, Camelid, Cap Sleeves, Cardigan, Catamarca, Ceremonial, Costly, Farmed, Fibers, Fine, Gift, Gold, Hairs, Handmade, Hooded, Incas, Knit, Long Sleeve, Luxury, Men, Peru, Poncho, Precious, Reserve, Round Neck, Royalty, Sacred, Safeguarding, Saved, Sean, Sleeveless, Soft, Tailor, Taupe, Thin, Tops, Torso, Vest, V-Neck, Wild, Wool

Last Friday's Answer: Patient

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

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ITB NO.: ITB17-TDLNR-040 – CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2016 **TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) TRACTOR MOWER WITH 3 ATTACHMENTS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES”

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Spurs win ninth straight game, 112-100 over the Wizards



WASHINGTON (AP)—LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points, Tony Parker added 20 and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Washington Wizards 112-100 on Saturday night for their ninth straight victory.

The Spurs (14-3) swept a three-game road swing and are a perfect 10-0 away from home.

Kawhi Leonard scored 19 for San Antonio, which shot 53.3 percent (40 of 75) from the field. The Spurs led by 10 at halftime and as many as 19 in the second half.

San Antonio's bench outscored the Washington reserves 35-18.

Bradley Beal led Washington (5-10) with 25 points and John Wall scored 21 as all five starters finished in double figures. Marcin Gortat had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

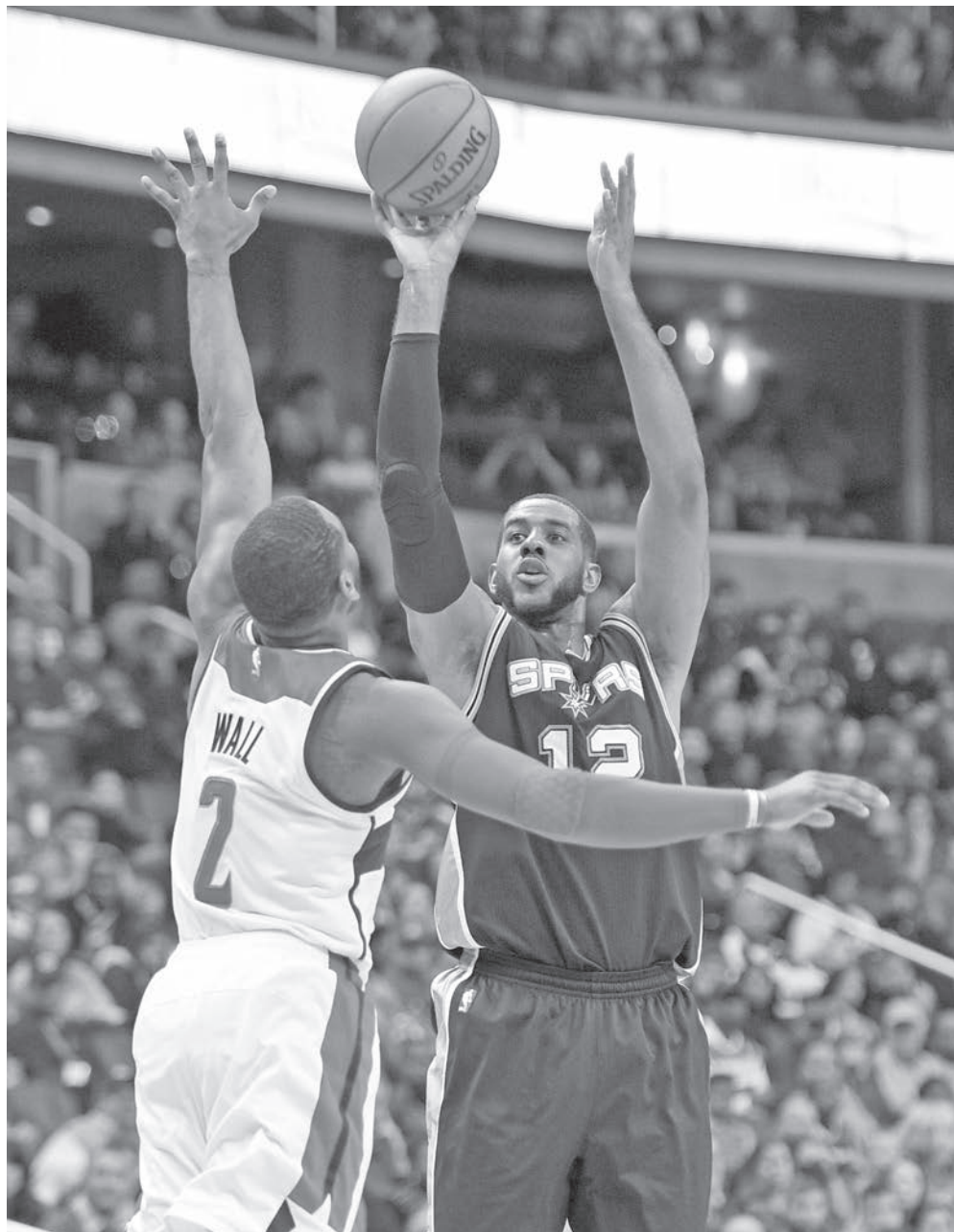
The Wizards got within 69-62 on a three-point play by Wall late in the third quarter, but the Spurs soon pushed the lead to 12 on Aldridge's 3-pointer and it was 90-76 after three quarters.

Parker scored 11 points in the second quarter as the Spurs opened a double-digit lead.

San Antonio, which shot 50 percent (20 of 40) in the first half, led 53-38 after Aldridge's jumper with 1:31 left, but the Wizards cut the deficit to 10 by halftime.

Thunder 106, Pistons 88

In Oklahoma City, Russell



Westbrook recorded his second straight triple-double and NBA-best seventh of the season with 17 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds as Oklahoma

City beat Detroit.

Westbrook shot just 8 for 22 from the field after scoring at least 30 points for eight straight games. It was just the

second time this year Westbrook failed to score 20.

Anthony Morrow scored 21 points off the bench to lead the Thunder (10-8), who were

San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) takes a shot against Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016, in Washington.

playing their fourth game in six nights in four different cities. Victor Oladipo added 18 while Steven Adams had 16 points and nine rebounds.

Tobias Harris scored 21 points for the Pistons, who have lost five of their last seven.

Warriors 115, Timberwolves 102

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry had 34 points, eight rebounds and six assists as Golden State overcame the absence of do-everything Draymond Green to beat Minnesota.

Curry shot 13 for 19 with four 3-pointers, while Kevin Durant added 28 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and a career-high six blocked shots. Klay Thompson scored 23 points with four 3s to go with six rebounds for Golden State.

Zach LaVine scored 31 points with five 3s, while Karl-Anthony Towns had 12 of his 18 points in the first quarter on 6-for-10 shooting.

Hornets 107, Knicks 102

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kemba Walker scored 28 points and Jeremy Lamb added 18 points and a career-high 17 rebounds as Charlotte snapped a four-game losing

streak.

Frank Kaminsky added 14 points, including two clutch 3-pointers late in the fourth quarter as the Hornets snapped the Knicks' three-game winning streak.

The Hornets (9-7) avenged an overtime loss to the Knicks on Friday night at Madison Square Garden in which Carmelo Anthony hit the go-ahead jumper with 3.1 seconds left and finished with 35 points.

Anthony didn't fare as well the second time around, limited to 18 points on 7-of-24 shooting. Kristaps Porzingis had 25 points and Derrick Rose added 18 points, eight assists and eight rebounds for the Knicks.

Grizzlies 110, Heat 107

In Miami, Marc Gasol scored a season-high 28 points and Mike Conley had 11 of his 21 in the final 3:06 as Memphis beat Miami.

Troy Williams added 18 for the Grizzlies, who earned a split of the home-and-home with the Heat and gave coach David Fizdale a win in the building where he served as a Miami assistant under Erik Spoelstra for the past eight seasons.

Dion Waiters scored a season-high 28 for Miami, which got 15 points and 12 rebounds from Hassan Whiteside, and 15 points from Josh Richardson.

Memphis outscored Miami 27-16 from the line, and turned the ball over only six times.

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER



Bubba Watson is already thinking about his career after golf, which just might include public office.

He wants to run for mayor. "I've had a dream," Watson said. "I moved back in the city limits of Pensacola (Florida) so one day I can run for mayor."

The two-time Masters champion already is building quite the local enterprise at home. Last year he became a part-owner of the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, a Double A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. This year, he opened a candy shop in Pensacola called "Bubba's Sweet Spot," serving up premium candy and ice cream.

"What American doesn't like chocolate? So for me, it was something fun," Watson said. "That really is a kid in a candy store, like everyone talks about. We built it from scratch. That wasn't buying a shop."

And he didn't stop there. His latest venture is a car dealership, Sandy and Bubba's Milton Chevrolet (he thinks

the new electric car is going to be big), along with a robotics company in Pensacola that makes everything from military equipment to toys.

He has invested in a few golf courses, and he is involved in an apartment complex being built in Pensacola.

"It's funny, I say to my friends, I say to my wife, to my manager, to my team that if you say 'Bubba Watson the golfer,' then you're limiting who I am, who I want to be and who I think I am," Watson said at the HSBC Champions. "These other businesses are fun. Golf is fun. The golf is great. But there are other things I want to do. I have other dreams. Golf made it possible. Luckily for me, haven't had bank loans. I'm able to pay cash for these things."

Watson, who defends his title next week in the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, has 10 victories worldwide, and his PGA Tour earnings alone top \$35 million. It's more than he imagined when he first reached the PGA Tour

in 2006.

But at 38, with two children, he's approaching a stage in life when he's starting to think.

He has lived in Orlando, Florida, and Scottsdale, Arizona, and North Carolina. He still keeps a home at The Greenbrier in West Virginia. But his future is near his birthplace of Bagdad in the Florida Panhandle, and he wanted to be sure to live in Pensacola to possibly run for mayor someday.

"To be back home ... my mom works in the candy shop," he said. "The excitement around these businesses, the city of Pensacola realizes I love them. They brought me everything I have now. They took time to sponsor sporting events that I participated in. That's the same thing I'm doing. I'm trying to help the community grow."

So what would he do as mayor? Given a chance for some humor, Watson turned serious.

"The first thing you do is some form of education," he

said. "We talk inner city. It's where the most growth can happen, no matter what background you are. But it all starts with education."

INAUGURATION PLANS:

Jim Herman will be going places he has never been in January. By winning the Shell Houston Open, he gets to start his year at Kapalua for the Tournament of Champions. And after the Sony Open, he is planning a trip to Washington to see one of his biggest supporters.

"I think I'm going to go to the inauguration," Herman said.

Herman gave up on the mini-tours and was working as an assistant pro when he landed a job at Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey. Once he was told that he would be playing with the boss - Donald Trump - Herman made a quick impression. Trump told him he was good enough to play the tour, and he helped financially back Herman, who eventually made it to the big

leagues, and last year won his first PGA Tour event.

Trump came to watch him in the FedEx Cup playoffs in 2015, not long after he announced his candidacy.

And now he's the president-elect.

Herman said he hasn't had a chance to talk to Trump yet. Trump will be at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida for Thanksgiving.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to see him there, get a round in," Herman said. "But his schedule is going to be pretty busy. I hope to get a word in with him and congratulate him. It's a pretty amazing run for him."

ERNIE AND ZAC: Ernie Els is thinking about signing up for the team event at the Zurich Classic, and he knew exactly whom to ask.

Zac Blair.

Never mind that they are separated by 21 years in age and 60 victories. Blair loves golf architecture and often will go to the classic courses to play during tournaments

or his weeks off tour. Els designs golf courses and has taken a liking to the 26-year-old from Utah.

"You know what I like about Zac? He's a freakin' architect," Els said. "We can talk architecture. He loves that. I love that, too."

Blair said Els approached him about the team event, and he'd love nothing better than to play New Orleans with the Big Easy.

"We'd have four majors between us," Blair said. "Not many (teams) could say that."

TIME WARP: Mackenzie Hughes grew up near Hamilton Golf & Country Club, and he was the standard bearer at the Canadian Open in 2003. One of the players in his group that day was Steve Allan of Australia.

Fast forward 13 years. Hughes won the Price Cutter Charity Classic on the Web.com Tour in August, all but assuring his PGA Tour card. Playing with him in the last group that day was none other than Allan.

"He had a huge laugh out of that," Hughes said.

Bubba for mayor? Watson starts mulling life beyond golf

Rookies lead Cowboys to 10th straight, 31-26 over Redskins



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Rookies Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott keep winning for the Dallas Cowboys, even with Kirk Cousins setting records for the Washington Redskins.

Prescott accounted for two touchdowns, Elliott ran for a pair of scores and the Cowboys extended their franchise regular-season record with a 10th straight victory, beating the Redskins 31-26 on Thursday.

Prescott tied Don Meredith's club quarterback record from 50 years ago with his fifth rushing TD and the NFL-leading Cowboys (10-1) won despite 449 yards passing and three touchdowns from Cousins, the first Redskins quarterback with two 400-yard games in a season.

"Over and over and over again, at critical moments, he came up with a big play, whether it was a third down, down in the red zone, again and again and again he just played winning football for us," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said about Prescott. "He did the things that winning quarterbacks do."

The Redskins (6-4-1) got swept by their NFC East rival, and the defending division champions fell 3 1/2 games behind Dallas with five games left. It was their seventh loss in eight tries on Thanksgiving against Cowboys, who had never won more than eight straight in the regular season.

"We've been in third place for a while, so we have to understand where we are what it's going to take to get an opportunity to come back here in the future," Washington coach Jay Gruden said. "The last five games of the year are critical."

Elliott, the NFL rushing leader, had the fourth score on five straight second-half touchdown drives between the two teams with a 1-yard run for a 31-19 lead midway through the fourth quarter. The 21-year-old had 97 yards to give him 1,199 for the season.

After getting 43 yards on the first Dallas possession, Elliott had just 13 yards before a 21-yarder to start Dallas' last TD drive. It was the second straight week he finished with 97 yards after some difficulty in the first half.

"Over time, you keep running the football, you're going to wear them down," Garrett said. "He made some big runs late that were critical. It really broke their back."

The Cowboys had an eight-game streak with at least 400 yards snapped, finishing with 353. But Dallas answered with touchdowns each time the Redskins got within a score on



AP
Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) leaps but falls shy of the end zone after being tripped up by Baltimore Ravens' Zach Orr in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016, in Arlington, Texas.

Cousins' passes of 5 yards to Jordan Reed and 67 yards to DeSean Jackson, who had 118 yards receiving.

After Cousins' second scoring toss to Reed, an 8-yarder with 1:53 remaining, Dustin Hopkins' onside kick went out of bounds. The Cowboys ran out the clock.

Reed had 10 catches for 95 yards after missing most of the first half when he injured his left shoulder leaping for a pass over his head in the end zone.

Cousins, who was 41 of 53 and finished 8 yards shy of his career high, took the Washington career lead with his third 400-yard game and became the first Redskins quarterback with consecutive 350-yard games since Jay Schroeder in 1986. He had 375 last week against Green Bay.

Prescott was 17 of 24 for 195 yards and one touchdown, a toe-tapper to Terrance Williams. He had eight carries for 39 yards, including a career-long 18-yarder. Dez Bryant led Dallas with 72 yards on five catches.

Lions 16, Vikings 13

In Detroit, Matthew Stafford led another crucial drive late in the fourth quarter, and Matt Prater's kicking again helped Detroit to a tight victory over Minnesota.

For the second time this month, the Lions edged the Vikings. This time, they didn't need overtime.

Prater's 40-yard field goal on the final play gave Detroit a 16-13 victory Thursday, moving the Lions a game ahead of Minnesota atop the NFC North. Darius Slay intercepted Sam Bradford's pass with 30 seconds remaining to set up the winning kick.

On Nov. 6 at Minnesota, Stafford led the Lions into range for Prater's 58-yard field at the end of regulation, and Detroit went on to win 22-16 in overtime. Now the Lions (7-4) have sole possession of first place after Thursday's victory.

"Obviously, we're in decent position, but they don't hand out trophies and things of that nature after a few wins like we've had," Detroit coach Jim Caldwell said. "But we're happy that we were able to find a way to pull them out, that's for sure."

The Vikings (6-5) were facing third down in the final minute when Slay stepped up in coverage and intercepted Bradford. His return gave the Lions the ball at the Minnesota 20,

and although there was some initial question about whether Slay fumbled at the end of the play, the call was upheld. Detroit ran the clock down, and Prater's kick won it.

The Vikings led 13-10 and had the Lions pinned back at their own 2 with 5:02 remaining, but Stafford made a 29-yard pass to Anquan Boldin on a crucial third down, and Detroit was able to work its way into position for Prater's 48-yard field goal that tied it with 1:45 to play.

The Lions have won six of their last seven, and Minnesota has dropped five of six since starting the season 5-0. Now the Vikings will have to rally to win a division that once looked like theirs for

the taking.

"You just keep moving forward. Obviously, there's a lot of football left to play and there's still five games left," Bradford said. "All we can do is worry about who we have next week and that's Dallas. Obviously, it's a really big game for us."

Steelers 28, Colts 7

In Indianapolis, Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown hooked up for three touchdowns Thursday night and the Pittsburgh Steelers' defense shut down the Indianapolis Colts in a 28-7 victory.

The Steelers (6-5) helped their playoff chances with a second straight win and snapped a four-game losing

streak on Thanksgiving.

Colts quarterback Andrew Luck sat out with a concussion, and his absence showed as Indy's first winning streak of the season ended at two games. While his replacement, Scott Tolzien, hung tough most of the night, the performance wasn't good enough to extend the Colts' 10-game winning streak on Thursday nights.

The Steelers built a 21-7 lead by scoring touchdowns on each of their first three possessions—a 5-yard TD run from Le'Veon Bell, and touchdown catches by Brown of 25 and 33 yards.

Indy's only score came on a 5-yard TD pass from Tolzien to Donte Moncrief early in the second quarter, a play set up by the first completion of Pat McAfee's career on a fake punt.

The Colts had two chances to cut the deficit but Tolzien was stopped twice on third-down runs at the 1-yard line, and the Steelers forced incompletions on both fourth-down plays.

Pittsburgh sealed it with—what else?—a 22-yard TD pass from Roethlisberger to Brown with 5:30 left.

Roethlisberger was 14 of 20 for 221 yards, Brown caught five passes for 91 yards and Bell ran 23 times for 120 yards.

Tolzien finished 22 of 36 for 205 yards with one TD and two interceptions.

Cowboys Hall of Fame QBs never did what rookie Prescott has

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Dallas Cowboys are accomplishing things in Dak Prescott's rookie season that never happened under Hall of Fame quarterbacks Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman.

Dallas, which got its five Super Bowl championships under Staubach and Aikman, had never won 10 consecutive regular-season games in the same season until now.

Only once before in franchise history had the Cowboys started 10-1, in Tony Romo's first full season as the starter in 2007. That was also the only other time since 2005, their last Super Bowl season, that they already had 10 wins on Thanksgiving Day.

"I have tons of confidence in myself, this team, and the coaching staff," Prescott said.

"I never go in to the game thinking we are going to lose, it is always what do we have to do to win? I feel like that is how this team thinks."

The NFL-leading Cowboys (10-1) haven't lost since their 20-19 setback to the New York Giants in the opener, when Prescott and rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott made their NFL debuts. Their 31-26 win over Washington on Thanksgiving Day completed a season sweep of the NFC East rival.

"The momentum is real for us right now. Our football team is a lot of fun," veteran tight end Jason Witten said. "It's neat to be a part of this and lead a great group of guys. ...Ten wins is good but they don't hang those banners after 11 weeks. We have to continue to build here going into a critical stretch."

Unlike after most Thanksgiving games, the Cowboys don't immediately get a long weekend this time. They play another Thursday game next week at Minnesota, meaning their extended break will instead come before the Nov. 11 rematch against the Giants in New Jersey.

After that, the Cowboys will have consecutive home games against Tampa Bay and Detroit before finishing the regular season at Philadelphia.

"It's cool. We have to keep it moving though. We can't get comfortable," receiver Dez Bryant said about the 10-game winning streak. "When you get comfortable you're going to fall apart. It's still a long season. We have to make sure everyone's mind is right, including mine. We have to be chasing something."

The only time the Cowboys have won more consecutive regular-season games was 11 in a row—the last five of the 1968 season and the first six games in 1969, a stretch that included Staubach's first NFL start.

When including postseason games, the longest winning string in franchise history is 12 in a row. That included the Cowboys' first Super Bowl title during the 1971 season, when they won their last seven regular-season games and all three postseason games, before winning the first two games of the 1972 season.

"We're striving for perfection," veteran cornerback Orlando Scandrick said. "Nobody is making the playoffs after 10 wins. We just have to keep our foot on the gas and continue to go in week in and week out and win football games."

2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League U17 Playoff Game

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MP United Football Club's Edwin Kim, left, plays leech-like defense against TanHoldings Football Club's Mareko Tekopua during the second half of their playoff game for the boys U17 division title in the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



TanHoldings' Thaippi Austria, left, steals the ball from MP United's Bada Lee.



TanHoldings' Emmanuel Aniana uses his body to stop the ball, while MP United's James Kim keep a close eye on him.



MP United's Go Sekiguchi, left, and Bada Lee, second left, try to block the ball after TanHoldings' attempt to score.



TanHoldings' Louie Calayag dribbles out of MP United defenders.



TanHoldings' Joshua Galarion, left, prevents MP United's Clayton Izuka from kicking the ball.



MP United Football Club's Edwin Kim, third left, is defended by TanHoldings' Ryan Relucio, second left, and Mareko Tekopua, right.



MP United's Sun Joon Tenorio, second left, waits for a pass from teammate Go Sekiguchi, while TanHoldings' Ryan Relucio, left, and Allan Hinson, third left, stay in the play.



Spurs win ninth straight game, 112-100 over the Wizards

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Sixers trio of lottery picks key to future success

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Set to Kill outlasts Served Shot



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Set to Kill survived Served Hot's gallant stand in the finals to rule the Ol'Aces Sports Club's 2016 Co-ed Thanksgiving Spike Fest that concluded last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The champion team was made up of Kriszell Esteves, Bryan Valenton, Jeff Riman, John Legacion, Cecille Guevarra, Krystel Maluyo, and Danny Borlain.

Esteves and company squandered their first chance to win the championship after losing Game 1 of the finals before regaining their bearings in Game 2 to wrap up the nearly two-hour duel. Set to Kill had a twice-to-beat advantage in the title match after sweeping their first four games in the winner's bracket, while Served Hot fought its way out

of the loser's draw to advance to the championship showdown. Set to Kill barged into the finals after beating DFS in the winner's bracket semis,

while Served Hot also topped the latter in the loser's bracket semis to clinch the second fi-

See SET on Page 26

Unranked players stand out



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sean Lee returns to Rintaro Miyawaki during their boys U12 singles game in the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Unseeded Sean Lee stunned the top-ranked Ji Min Woo in the finals, 6-4, 6-2, to clinch the boys U14 singles crown in the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic.

Lee was at the bottom half of the eight-player draw and earned his first title this season. The lefty swept Rintaro Miyawaki last Friday, 6-0, 6-0, to move into the semifinals against the second-ranked Seung Jin Paik. Lee went on to pull off a 6-4, 6-4 upset over Paik, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Chris Kim, before catching a bigger fish in the top-ranked Woo after prevailing in their title match yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

Woo barged into the finals after shutting down Daniel Heo and Sam Ryu over the

weekend. Ryu made it to the consolation game against Paik, but the latter took the battle for third place, 8-3.

In the boys U12 singles, the unseeded Jae Yun Jung allowed no more than a point to each of his foes to dominate the division. He first blanked Sam Cope, 6-0, and then stunned No. 1 seed Danny Jeoung in the semis, 8-1, to set a finals encounter against the second-ranked Lahun Lam. Jung went on to win his debut in the annual tournament after an easy 6-1 victory over Lam, who entered the finals following a 6-2 triumph over Nason Wessel.

Meanwhile, Daniel Kang and Michael Ren completed the champions list in the boys singles competition of Week 1 of the TanHoldings

See UNRANKED on Page 26

Basnet, Church score most goals in fall season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Football Club's Rohan Basnet and Paire FC's Kaden Church made the most goals in the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League that concluded last week.

Basnet and Church collected 25 goals apiece to lead their respective divisions.

The MP United 1 striker played for the club's co-ed U12 team and won the Golden Boot race against TanHoldings' Kohtaroto Goto and Paire's Dylan Mister, who were the two other players to haul 20-plus goals in the double-round robin fall season. Goto gained 23, while Mister earned 21.

Of the 11 games (including its playoff loss to Kanoa FC for the division title) MP United-1 played, Basnet scored in seven of them with his most goals (5) in a single match coming during their 12-0 demolition of Paire last Oct. 8.

Basnet's teammate Rintaro

Miyawaki also registered double figures in goals scored after posting 19, while TanHoldings' Oliver



Fajardo and Kanoa's Merriker Toves recorded 18 and 12, respectively. MP United-1's Andrew Chung and



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United-1's Rohan Basnet, left, is held down by a Kanoa defender during their playoff game for the co-ed U12 title in the NMIFA youth league last Nov. 19 at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United-2's Sean Gil had 10 apiece.

In the boys U14 division, Church also won a close fight against TanHoldings' Mark Esalan, 25-23. Esalan nearly caught up with Church when the former racked up nine goals in TanHoldings' last game of the season (against Shirley's FC, 13-1).

Fortunately for Church, he managed to get a hat trick in their 10-2 triumph over Matansa FC, also during the last day of competition in the division. The Paire player gained a good lead early in the season as he had already scored 10 goals after only two games. Church had his most goals (6) in their second game opposite Shirley's FC (14-1) last Sept. 24.

Church and Esalan were the only two players in their division to score 20-plus goals as TanHoldings' Kirro Batino, Matansa's Lolobeyong Beni-

See BASNET on Page 26